



Thursday, February 8, 2018

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£232m project would also improve existing homes

D-DAY FOR NEW COUNCIL HOMES

Report by Jamie Brassington

IT is decision day for a plan to build more than 300 council homes in Dudley over the next five years, at a cost of more than £30 million.

The proposals go before Dudley Council's cabinet at a meeting today (Thursday).

The local authority has outlined ambitious plans to build new and improve existing council housing in the borough in a scheme with a total cost of £232m.

A Dudley Council spokesman said: "Our five-year programme going forward from April 2018 involves a proposed spend of over £30m, which aims to deliver in excess of 300 new homes."

The council is also proposing to spend £72m on the maintenance of existing council housing, including kitchen and bathroom replacements and work on roofs, doors and windows.

More than £22m has been identified to address fuel poverty, including improving central heating and providing more affordable heating in 3,250 homes, also reducing carbon emissions.

Nearly £31m would be spent on work to support independent living, including home adaptations for tenants with disabilities, plus and improvements to sheltered and supported homes.

Investment

And more than £13m will be invested in community and estate regeneration.

Councillor Laura Taylor, cabinet member for housing, said: "We are committed to doing all we can to improve the standard of living for our tenants, and this huge investment over the next five years reflects that. The future is bright for Dudley."

"We want to make it as easy as possible for people to live and work here by offering good quality, fit for purpose, modern council homes."

Money spent on council homes is ring-fenced, and it is mainly sourced from rental income from tenants and receipts from right-to-buy sales.

The council says the programme of works has no impact on the level of council tax.

Dudley Council's plan to invest in homes comes as council bosses are set to make major decisions in the coming months over services and finances in the borough.

NED'S ATOMIC TIPPLE IS THE WONDER STUFF



Jonn Penny, of Ned's Atomic Dustbin, and Miles Hunt, of The Wonder Stuff, launch the new beer named in their honour

ROCKERS Ned's Atomic Dustbin and The Wonder Stuff's Miles Hunt shared a pint back on home turf when they launched a new ale in their honour.

Ned's Wonder – a limited edition 4.1 per cent ale from Birmingham-based Froth Blowers Brewing Co – has been created to mark the forthcoming Love From Stourbridge tour, which will feature sets from both bands.

Miles joined Ned's members Jonn Penney

and Rat to perform a few acoustic numbers at The Duke William pub in Coventry Street, Stourbridge, in front of a select crowd before raising a glass as the first pint of Ned's Wonder was pulled.

Pub manager Jason Taylor, aged 39, said: "It was very successful – there were about 80 people upstairs.

"Everything went well and the three barrels we had all went."

"It is a malty beer and it is a more traditional style ale – we are sort of spoilt now with the choices of ales we have but this is a good base beer."

"I can't see why we would not have it on while they were touring."

"Hopefully it will crop up in a lot more local boozer – it is more choice for the community. They all enjoyed it and I think it will do well on the tour."

CRIME

Public warned over bogus water workers

POLICE have issued a warning following a spate of distraction burglaries carried out by crooks posing as water company workers.

Elderly people in Dudley, Tipton and Oldbury have been targeted by fraudsters claiming to be from water companies, who trick their way into homes and then search for money and valuables.

Severn Trent Water is also investigating, after reminding the public that their staff will always be in uniform. A police spokesman said: "These types of burglaries target vulnerable and elderly people."

HIPPODROME

Protest outside council house

A PROTEST will be held outside of Dudley Council house today (Thursday) ahead of a meeting that could decide the fate of Dudley Hippodrome. Dudley Council's cabinet is due to decide this evening if campaigners given the keys to the Castle Hill landmark have met the aims laid out at the start of the project to save the venue. The protest is from 5.15pm.

● Curtain to fall? – page 14

COURT

Romanian killer stabbed sister-in-law

A KILLER from Romania, who had battered a man to death in his home country, tried to kill his sister-in-law just eight months after being allowed into the UK.

Gheorghe 'Melo' Mihai launched a savage attack on 23-year-old Roxana Mihai in Lye when she interrupted a conversation he was having with his brother. He stabbed her in the face, head, arm and back.

● Like a man possessed – page 3

INSIDE

MUNICH IS REMEMBERED



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Father wants action on killer drivers



Georgie Evans

THE father of a teenager killed by a speeding driver has backed a campaign for tougher sentences started by The Chronicle's sister newspaper The Express & Star.

The Stop the Speeders petition was launched week after reporting on two men jailed for less than eight years for each causing the death of a man by dangerous driving.

By the start of this week the petition had more than 1,100 signatures. It calls for judges to give longer sentences for killer drivers and will be sent to Prime Minister Theresa May.

The latest person to back it is Richard Evans, whose daughter Georgie Evans, a former pupil of Kinver High School, died when her car was hit by an Audi A6 driven by Kuba Ole, who was speeding on Priory Road in Dudley. Wolverhampton Crown Court heard the 24-year-old, of Beaconview Road, West Bromwich, fled the scene.

He was later jailed for six years, after pleading guilty to causing death by dangerous driving. Mr Evans said: "We lost our daughter on 27th October 2016 due to driver speeding at nearly 100mph in a 30mph zone. He struck her car with

such force it tore it in half. She hadn't a prayer."

"The driver then made off from the scene and handed himself in 18 hours later. He was sentenced to six years imprisonment and probably will be out in four. We are paying the ultimate sentence. Enough is enough."

Ole later tried to blame the victim, claiming she had been inexperienced and travelling too slowly. Those allegations were dismissed by the police.

Visit www.change.org/p/theresa-may-mp-killer-drivers-should-have-stiffer-sentences

Flexible and simplified new disability services due

DISABILITY services in Dudley are set to be transformed as part of a shake-up of special education and social care services.

Dudley Council's cabinet were being asked to rubber-stamp plans for the new-look service at a meeting yesterday (Wednesday).

Chiefs said the proposals 'will improve co-ordination of care for people with disabilities from childhood through to adulthood'. The new service puts 'greater emphasis on helping people gain skills and knowledge, and have confidence and a social life', bosses added.

Councillor Nicolas Barlow, cabinet member for adult social care, said: "This is a major transformation of services which will help people live a full and independent life."

"We have talked to services users and carers in recent months who have told us we need to do more to simplify processes, improve our response times and offer greater flexibility in the way we do things."

"We know all of these things combined with the fact that people should at the very least have a consistent and quality experience regardless of age, the introduction of the whole life disability service is a key move to transform the way we do things and ultimately improves a person's quality of life."

Council tax is set to rise by 4.5 per cent

DUDLEY Council is set to raise council tax by 4.5 per cent from April.

The authority is planning to increase council tax by 2.99 per cent, and charge households a further 1.5 per cent to fund adult social care.

Councillor Steve Clark, cabinet member for finance, said: "No council wants to increase council tax, but this small increase is the right thing to do for our residents."

Most households, in band B properties, will pay an extra 82p per week if the plans are approved. Households in band D properties will pay an extra £1.05.

Nearly 1,500 took part in consultation, called the Big Question, which ended last month. Council bosses will discuss the results at cabinet today (Thursday).

Last year the Government agreed to a deal allowing councils to increase council tax by 2.99 per cent and also approved a new social care precept – an extra rise in council tax – to generate money specifically for adult social care for older and more vulnerable people.

Savings

Councils were allowed to increase council tax under the precept between one and three per cent, with Dudley Council opting for a 1.5 per cent increase. This would make it the second lowest council tax rate in the country of metropolitan boroughs. It comes at a time when local authorities face a fall in funding from central government.

Dudley Council has put forward savings of £4m for the next financial year starting from April.

Council bosses will also consider increasing the social care precept by a further 1.5 per cent from April 2019, under proposed government rules. Councillor Clark continued: "We've already made significant savings, including £4m additional savings in 2018/19, but we still need to invest in our services."

A decision will be made at a full council meeting on February 19.

Fans in tribute to disaster victims



Fans at Old Trafford paid tribute to the victims of the Munich air disaster including Dudley's Duncan Edwards

"MANCHESTER, Munich and

Dudley will forever be united."

That was the moving final tribute in a special book of remembrance for Dudley-born football hero Duncan Edwards.

Rose Cook-Monk has handed the book over to the German city to mark the 60th anniversary of the Munich air crash, which claimed the life of England player Dun-

can and seven of his Manchester

United team-mates, as well as several

club officials, fans, journalists and

air crew.

On the last page of the book she wrote: "On behalf of the Duncan Edwards Foundation, our Mayor Councillor Dave Tyler and the people of Dudley, I am proud to hand over the book of remembrance dedicated to Duncan. We are immensely

proud of Duncan, his achievements and the wonderful person he was.

Manchester, Munich and Dudley

will forever be united."

Around a thousand Manchester United fans visited the German city as part of a commemoration, while supporters also paid tribute at Old Trafford on Saturday and on Tuesday to the 'Busby Babes' team.

● Such great lads – page 14

Original shop to go after 130 years

A FAMILY-run jewellery business will close one of its shops after more than 130 years trading on a Black Country high street.

TH Bakers, which opened in 1888, has announced it will be closing its store in Brierley Hill High Street, which was its first shop. The company, which owns 30 stores around the country, will still operate other Black Country branches.

Paul Griffiths, a spokesman for the company, said: "The reason for the store's closure is due to long term declining trade on the high street to a point that, after trading on the high street for 130 years, keeping the store open is no longer feasible. However we are still trading in all of our other store areas, including Merry Hill, Stourbridge and Halesowen."

Blues at the library

A COUNTRY-BLUES band will be playing a library gig on Saturday. The Whiskey Poets, including author RJ Ellory and former ELO member Martin Smith are at Blackheath Library on Saturday at 7pm. Tickets with meal are £8 adults and £3 children. Call 0121 559 1884.

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Student is found not guilty in murder trial

THE jury in the trial of a man accused of fatally stabbing amateur footballer Ryan Passey during a fight in a Stourbridge nightclub has found the defendant not guilty.

Student Kobe Murray, 19, has been cleared after he denied murdering 24-year-old Mr Passey in Chicago's in Stourbridge town centre on August 6 last year.

Murray, of The Broadway, Dudley, had claimed he had acted in self-defence.

He was found not guilty of murder and not guilty of manslaughter.

During the trial at Birmingham Crown Court, the jury has heard differing accounts about who the knife belonged to.

Murray said he grabbed it from his friend to dispose of it just before he was punched, and lashed out to fend off further attack, accidentally stabbing Mr Passey.

The prosecution had asserted that the knife belonged to Murray and that he deliberately plunged it into his victim.

Summing up on Monday Judge Julian Goose QC told the jury: "Ultimately you should concentrate on what the defendant did do and not what he meant to do."

He directed them that if they believed it was self-defence they should return a verdict of non-guilty to both charges.

Straits not right for site, says MP

A PROPOSAL to build a temporary travellers site in Gornal is strongly opposed by residents, says an MP.

Dudley Council is suggesting a transit site in the Straits but 93 per cent of residents surveyed by Dudley North MP Ian Austin opposed the move. The Straits site, is one of 10 sites which Dudley Council is looking at to establish a camp. A site in Coseley seems the most likely but sites elsewhere in the borough, including Lye, are under consideration at a meeting this week.

Having such a site will make it easier for the police and council to move on travellers from illegal camps. Mr Austin said: "I do not think that heavily residential areas, such as the sites in my constituency at the Straits or Blowers Green, are suitable."

Spring ale festival

A BREWERY is hosting a spring beer festival next month. Green Duck Brewery in Rufford Road, Stourbridge, is holding the event in its Badelynge Bar from March 15 to 17. There will be 30 ales and 15 ciders.

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Violent thug had been in Romanian jail



Gheorghe Mihai

HE had murdered before in his home country but that did stop Romanian killer Gheorghe 'Melo' Mihai entering this country - and trying to murder again.

The 38-year-old could not be refused entry because he had served the seven year sentence imposed in 2006 for battering a man to death with a piece of wood in September 2004, was not wanted for any other crime and did not need to tell officials of his alarming previous conviction when he came to the UK at the end of 2016.

Romania is a member of the European Union and its citizens benefit from 'free movement' rights. They do not need a visa

to visit or work here and so avoid the checks made on people from nations not in the EU, who must give details of any previous criminal conviction before it is decided whether to let them in.

Just eight months after his arrival Mihai launched a savage knife attack on his 23-year-old sister-in-law Roxana Mihai during a terrifying drunken rampage in Lye High Street near Stourbridge on August 7.

He was found guilty of attempted murder at Wolverhampton Crown Court this week and warned he faces a lengthy sentence.

The car wash attendant flew into a rage after she interrupted a conversation he was

having with her husband. "He looked like a man possessed," said an eye witness, lorry driver Kieran Langan.

Mihai had gone to a bus shelter where Roxana was waiting with her husband, to ask his step-brother Nicursor Gheorghe for money. He said: "My wife then told him we had no money because we had sent it to our family in Romania. He said to her 'why are you talking in our conversation' and took out a knife. I held him to let my wife run and hide." But the defendant gave chase and deliberately tripped the fleeing woman when he caught up with her on a car park before stabbing her at least four times.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Chance to quiz region's mayor

PEOPLE will be given the chance to quiz the Mayor of the West Midlands in Dudley. Metro Mayor Andy Street will be holding the latest of his 'Ask Andy' sessions at Dudley College Musical Theatre, at Dudley Evolve on Tower Street, on March 5.

He said: "This is your chance to ask me about the progress we are making as a region in transforming transport, housing and skills. These are exciting times for the West Midlands and I want many people to be at Dudley College so I can talk to them about how (this) will affect their lives." The event is at 7.15pm by ticket only. Visit eventbrite.co.uk for free tickets.

Kindon is speaker at charity dinner

FORMER Wolves star Steve Kindon is the guest speaker at a sportsman's dinner in aid of the Smile For Joel charity next month.

The event takes place at the Copthorne Hotel in Brierley Hill on Thursday, March 1.

Tables of 10 are £400 plus VAT with a former player from either Villa, Wolves, Albion, Blues or Walsall on each table. Contact Route 39 on 01902 244220 to book places.

The cause was set up in memory of the Black Country's Tunisia terror attack victims.

Singing to bring back memories

A SINGING group in Sedgley is helping people with dementia bring back memories and reconnect with loved ones by singing old favourite tunes.

The Salvation Army has launched a programme called 'Singing By Heart' for people with dementia. It uses a mixture of popular songs and hymns, each carefully selected to ensure they are recognised.

Singing By Heart takes place at the rear of All Saints Church hall in Sedgley. The next sessions run from 2pm to 3.30pm on February 26, then on March 26, April 23 and May 28.

Gravel helps giraffes keep hooves healthy

DUDLEY Zoo's three giraffes are keeping their feet neat following a fresh delivery of gravel.

Keepers at Dudley Zoo have spread 40 tonnes of gravel across the 40-acre site refreshing the giraffe and reindeer paddocks.

The loose chippings have an important use for the long-legged ungulates as it helps naturally wear their hooves down. Giraffes Kubwa, Josie and Kito have regular hoof inspections.

Convicted killer tried to murder his sister-in-law

Fizzogs set sights on Hollywood



Dancing grannies, from left, Fizzogs Sue Hawkins, Jacky Fellows, Deb Nicholls and Emma Rollason

THEIR dancing grannies took the internet by storm but now Black Country comedy troupe The Fizzogs have their sights set on a big screen debut.

The Dancing Grannies have launched an online fundraising appeal to help get them to Hollywood. Money raised on The Fizzogs' Crowdfunder page will pay for a 'teaser tape', which can be shown to potential producers.

If this catches the attention of the right Hollywood bigwigs then the group are optimistic a movie could be on the cards.

The Fizzogs announced: "The

Dancing Grannies are well known on the internet, a viral phenomenon with over 350 million hits across social media. Over the last six months we have been developing a feature film script with award-winning writer/director Benjamin Field." Visit www.crowdfunder.co.uk/the-dancing-grannies-help-us-get-to-hollywood

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£10,000 boost for Legion appeal

SHOPPERS at Sainsbury's have raised £10,000 for The Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal.

The amount raised by customers at the Oldbury store in October and November helped raise the UK's 2017 total to more than £3 million.

Katy Bradshaw-Sole, store manager at Sainsbury's Oldbury, said: "Our community always get behind the Poppy Appeal and each year our customers and colleagues continue to dig deep for the charity."

"We are thrilled to have raised such a huge amount for the Royal British Legion and look forward to seeing what the future holds."

Number of falls at hospitals reduced

THERE has been a 30 per cent reduction in falls at Black Country hospitals. The Safety Plan, which was introduced at Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust in January last year, involves clinical staff completing 10 safety checks when assessing a patient.

Statistics show the number of falls resulting in an injury has decreased by 30 per cent a week as a result of the plan being implemented across the trust. Figures also show 99 per cent of patients are receiving all 10 checks within 24 hours following admission.

Chief Nurse Elaine Newell said: "This is all about our patients."

Airport trials aid for blind in toilet

BIRMINGHAM Airport has become the first in the UK to fit the revolutionary RoomMate, an audio description unit for the visually impaired, in one of its disabled access toilets.

It provides an audio description of the facility for blind and visually impaired users.

Persons with Reduced Mobility (PRM) Manager, Ed Kibblewhite said: "We have since invited several groups to trial the RoomMate with us and look forward to their feedback."

Club for older people is open on Fridays too

A LUNCH and social activity club for older people is opening an extra day each week – Friday – from March 1. Break Away, at the Royal British Legion, Summerhill, Kingswinford, is currently open on Mondays and Thursdays between 9am and 4pm. Anyone interested is welcome to pop in for a chat or can get information from Jenny Bates on 07487 404882.

Inquest hears fourth suspect arrested

A FOURTH man has been arrested on suspicion of murdering shopkeeper Jaskaran Kang, who was stabbed to death in a flat above a shop in Dudley.

The 24-year-old father was found dead at the property above the Mini Mart on Stourbridge Road, Dudley, in the early hours of Saturday, January 6.

An inquest into the death of Mr

Kang, from Handsworth, was opened and adjourned on Friday at Black Country Coroner's Court, where it was revealed he was stabbed nine times and died from a stab wound to the leg.

Detective Inspector Justin Spanner, leading the investigation, told the hearing: "Police were called at 2.29am on January 6 to a flat, which was one of three flats above Dudley

Wines (Mini Mart), to a male who had been stabbed. Upon arrival ambulances were already there. Jaskaran Kang was found there with nine stab wounds. An altercation occurred and he received stab wounds."

DI Spanner confirmed three people had been charged with murder and revealed that further suspects had been arrested including another man on suspicion of murder.

Coroner Zafar Siddique adjourned the inquest until the conclusion of the police investigation. Three people charged with murder have appeared in court, Reggie Salmon, 20 from Stourbridge Road, Dudley, a 17-year-old youth from Newcastle-under-Lyme, and Dontay Ellis, 18, of Central Drive, Lower Gornal. They are to appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court on March 16 to enter a plea.

Coach travel firm has gone into liquidation

A TRAVEL company that closed unexpectedly last month and left customers hundreds out pounds out of pocket has gone into liquidation.

Group Travel Limited, a coach firm based in Audnam, Stourbridge, announced it has appointed insolvency expert Paul Brindley.

A statement from the company, which also has a branch in Shrewsbury, said all customers owed money would receive a letter from the liquidator. It added: "If you have not received a letter from the liquidator by February 5, and you have paid for a trip or voucher you have not received, please call the liquidator. To all trade creditors, the letter from the liquidator should be with you by February 5. If you have not received it by February 8, give the liquidator a call."

Roy Dade, from Shrewsbury, had a trip cancelled in November and is still waiting for money to be refunded. The 58-year-old was supposed to travel to London with his wife to see Annie the musical but was told on November 4 it had been cancelled. Last month he was given £150 cash towards the £330 he was owed. He said: "Given that their customer base was largely seniors, there is something very immoral in the fact that they were still taking money from pensioners. I suspect they have been in trouble for much longer than it appears. It's a sad story really because we have booked a lot of trips with them over the years, but at least it looks like they're trying to do the right thing now."

Contact the liquidator on 0800 2315788.

Bikes petition will go to Parliament

A PETITION has been launched to crack down on nuisance motorbike and quadbike riders in Dudley.

Riders have using illegal bikes over Fens Pool and Barrow Hill Reserves in Pensnett.

Dudley South MP Mike Wood has launched the petition which will go before the House of Commons calling on police to take action.

He said: "I have launched this petition to try to stop these bikes that are causing damage to the nature reserves. They are a real danger to people who use them a nuisance to residents who live nearby."

"Once people have signed the petition, I will present it in Parliament and use it to get the police and council to do everything possible to put an end to these menaces."



Dr Neil Steven, left, and Adrian Webb promote Cancer Research UK's Unity Band

Dr Steven, deputy director of the Cancer Research UK Clinical Trials Unit at the University of Birmingham, said he hoped the campaign would receive backing to raise funds for life-saving research projects.

He said: "Adrian is living proof of how far research has come in recent years – but there is still so much more to do. Every day, around 85 people are diagnosed with cancer in the West Midlands so by wearing a Cancer Research UK Unity Band, people can show solidarity with those affected by

the disease. As a cancer consultant, I know firsthand the impact the disease has on individuals and families. That's why I'm inviting everyone to be part of a movement that can help make a real difference to so many people's lives."

Though World Cancer Day took place on Sunday, the Unity Band is still available online, in pink, navy and blue at cancerresearchuk.org/support-us/donate/world-cancer-day or to make a donation visit [www.cancerresearchuk.org/support-us/donate](http://cancerresearchuk.org/support-us/donate)

Literature festival has highest yet attendance

A RECORD number of people attended this year's Wolverhampton Literature Festival.

More than 6,200 people took part in almost 100 events across more than two dozen venues.

Events included children's storytelling, workshops, theatre and performance, literature, poetry reading, music and art talks.

The three-day festival, which ran from January 26 to 28, saw award-winning writer and journalist Will Self headlining the celebrations.

A total of 98 events took place across 26 city venues during the event, which saw a major increase in attendance compared to the 2,000 who visited last year's inaugural festival.

Councillor John Reynolds, Wolverhampton council's cabinet member for city economy, hailed the 'tremendous' festival and said he is delighted it will be returning.

Councillor Reynolds said: "The feedback has been very positive and, thanks to Arts Council England funding, we can now look to build on this success in 2019 and for years to come."

The festival was made possible after the council teamed up with the University of Wolverhampton and the Express & Star. It was funded by an Arts Council England grant to Wolverhampton Libraries.

Canal watch plan for the waterways

STEPS are being taken to ensure historic canals across the West Midlands are kept safe and secure.

A neighbourhood watch scheme is being launched by the Canal and River Trust with West Midlands Police to ensure that the canals remain 'quiet, tranquil places' and to deter crime.

It is called Canal Watch and the increased number of people choosing to live and work by the water will be able to sign up to it to receive police updates and free crime prevention advice.

If successful it will be rolled out nationwide.

To sign up to receive information, create an online account at www.wmnow.co.uk website.

Male voices needed

CRADLEY Heath Male Voice Choir is seeking new members aged from 16 up.

They can go along to Dudley Wood Methodist Church for choir meetings on Mondays from 7.30pm.

No Velo this year, new route in 2019

THE Birmingham Velo will not be held this year, organisers have announced, after the event divided opinion in the Black Country and Staffordshire last year.

The event will instead return in 2019, when it will be moved from autumn to spring and see cyclists take a different route.

The ride was held for the first time in September but attracted criticism from residents and business owners due to road closures in parts of the Black Country, Staffordshire, Worcestershire and Birmingham.

Saboteurs left nails and tacks on the route, including in Bobbington and Swindon, putting the safety of riders at risk.

Details of next year's route are yet to be revealed but will be announced in the coming months, event organisers said.

Around 15,000 riders took part in the 100-mile route last year, in what is believed to be the UK's second biggest closed-road cycling event ever. It raised £2 million for charity.

Participants rode from Birmingham city centre through Sandwell, Dudley, South Staffordshire and Worcestershire.

The 2019 event will take place earlier in the year when there is more daylight, the organisers say.

Jon Ridgeon, chairman of event organisers CSM Active, said: "It was clear to us that some changes would be necessary if the event was to reach its

long-term potential. Together with our partners Birmingham City Council, we are determined to ensure that this wonderful event continues to develop and evolve.

"The move from September to the spring, along with the new route, will provide us with a fantastic, sustainable long-term platform from which to grow in years to come."

Councillor Ian Ward, leader of Birmingham City Council, said: "The 2017 event was a huge success for Birmingham. The benefits of major events are well known and our cycling strategy is clear – we want to get the Midlands cycling and we plan for Velo Birmingham to become a key legacy project as we build towards the 2022 Commonwealth Games."

NEWS IN BRIEF

MP Austin lands electric cars role

DUDLEY North MP Ian Austin has been appointed as vice chair on a parliamentary group working on policy for electric and automated vehicles.

The group brings together manufacturers, businesses, media, organisations and experts to share information, promote awareness, and debate about future low-carbon transport technologies.

The Labour MP – who recently visited Westfields, the Dudley-based car company that is developing new electric and driverless vehicle technologies – said he wants the Black Country to benefit from the jobs that these new technologies will generate.

Mind chosen as law firm's charity

A LAW firm has unveiled its charity of the year – and has opted to keep it local.

Higgs & Sons has picked Dudley Mind as its charity for the next 12 months.

Mark Evans from Dudley Mind said: "We are so grateful. Dudley Mind is a local mental health charity that aims to improve and promote recovery and wellbeing for people in the Dudley borough affected by poor mental health."

Higgs & Sons has presented a cheque for more than £22,000 to the NSPCC, their 2017 charity of the year.

Glassboys vs Albion in charity quiz night

THE Glassboys will take on the Baggies in a charity version of popular TV quiz A Question of Sport.

Stourbridge Football Club is hosting the event in aid of Mary Stevens Hospice at its War Memorial Ground, Amblecote.

A Charity Question of Sport on April 5 at 7.30pm will feature legends teams from Stourbridge FC and West Bromwich Albion.

Tickets costing £8 are on sale and includes fish and chips supper. Call (01384) 377778 to book. Funds raised will support the Stourbridge hospice.

Full house at Erasure show in Birmingham

POP duo Erasure have sold out their entire UK tour including a concert at Birmingham's O2 Academy on Sunday.

Andy Bell and Vince Clarke have had a string of hits since the 1980s, including A Little Respect, Sometimes and Victim of Love, and next month release their orchestral new album World Beyond.

Support on their tour comes from Bright Light Bright Light.

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Getting in a state over a visit from US President

It's just criminal to penalise for 31mph

IF a pollster stopped you in the street and asked about your priorities for crime and policing, what would you say?

Violent crime? Putting away more burglars? Getting tough on anti-social behaviour, vandalism, and graffiti?

Or maybe you would reply: "All of these things are important, but I understand that in these days of stretched resources you can't do everything. So what I would really like is to nick motorists for doing 31mph."

I suspect the latter represents something of a minority viewpoint. But last week, just days after recording a 13 per cent rise in overall crime, and a 16 per cent increase in violent crime, the chief constable of West Mercia Police decided the burning issue was petty speeding offences.

Actually I suspect he knows full well that is not the view of the public. But there seems to be a culture among the higher echelons of most of our public services these days that their role is not to implement the will of the people, but to "change our attitudes and perceptions."

If we think burglary or yobbish behaviour is more important than straying fractionally over the speed limit, then we are clearly in need of a bit of education. Worked a treat in the old Eastern bloc.

Indeed, Mr Bangham says he wants to create a climate where the public feels embarrassed rather than aggrieved when being hit with a speeding fine, and up to a point I agree. But I think this approach will do exactly the opposite.

Think about how different attitudes to speeding were 30 or so years ago. Learner drivers were told it was ok to do up to 35mph "to keep up with the traffic", and police usually allowed people a margin of 10mph before stopping them.

But the thing was back then, if you did get caught, it really did mark you down as a bit of an idiot. Everyone knew you were driving irresponsibly and deserved all you got.

If we start penalising every single driver who strays one mph over the limit – which is basically every single driver – that stigma is gone. It becomes nothing more than a lottery, putting the self-centred boy racer in the same bracket as the little old lady on her way to a whisk drive.

Mr Bangham has now sought to "clarify" the recent comments, and assures us officers will not be targeting drivers for trivial speeding infringements after all. Good.

Because if everyone is liable to be done for speeding, where's the embarrassment in that?



Stephen Fry – how much of this anger is genuinely about Trump



Donald Trump – how many demonstrators would turn out anytime to bash America



Lord Adonis – sneering at entire city and dancing on grave of a stricken company?

Playing Trump card – or just snobbery?

STEPHEN Fry is leading the campaign for "the most incredible protest in history" when Donald Trump makes his state visit to Britain. But how much of this anger is genuinely about Trump and how much is simply the latest manifestation of the anti-Americanism which has been festering in British society ever since we lost the War of Independence 235 years ago? It is a sneering snobbery, based on the conviction that European nations are civilised, wise and cultured while America is vulgar, brash and far too powerful. At its heart it is all about old nations envying the success of a new nation. And I wonder how many of the "anti-Trump" demonstrators would turn out at any opportunity to bash America, no matter who was the president. One of our national treasures said in an interview 10 years ago: "When they mock America for its supposed lack of knowledge, irony or sophistication, they are revealing nothing but the pathetic inadequacy and inferiority complex of the British. I absolutely hate that sneering anti-Americanism." The national treasure? Stephen Fry, since you ask.

A READER asks why it is that the latest cooking fad, Himalayan salt crystals, have lain "undisturbed beneath the mountains for one hundred million years" but come with a "best before" date of December 2018.

ONE or two old softies took me to task for suggesting serial burglars should be taken into a field and shot. I wonder whether this week's report on the armed raider known as the Night Watcher who is targeting homes in southern England, terrifying householders and stealing their valuables changes any minds. Simple question: would the world be a better or a worse place if Chummie was no longer with us? Anyway, if he really is a soldier he'll understand

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



the concept of the firing squad.

MY RECENT item on sneering at Americans reminds me of a pal who has recently had facial surgery and complains that, because of the stitches, he can no longer sneer with both sides of his mouth. My research suggests that he probably never could. Try it. Curl your lip into the sneeriest sneer you can manage and then try it with the other side of your mouth. It seems most people are one-sided sneerers. The explanation may be that, once you start sneering in childhood, you choose one side and the muscles on the other side "forget" how to curl. I dare say there are ambidextrous sneerers but I have yet to meet one.

I WROTE recently about how a friend and I had different memories of the same event, a trip to the North Pole. A reader is reminded of his amazement in discovering that he had been at the same 1980s David Bowie concert in Milton Keynes as a lifelong friend. It turned out they both remembered the heat, the expensive bottled water and the four-hour delay in leaving the car park. But both had forgotten a significant fact. My reader went home and related the amazing coincidence to his wife who replied with a mixture of bemusement and pity: "Yes, I drove us all down in the car."

DID you spot the symbol the stars wore at the Grammys to show their solidarity with the campaign against sexual harassment? It was a

white rose which also happens to be the symbol of Britain's right-on capital of liberal, gender-neutral and progressive thinking. Yorkshire. Put that kettle on, luv.

YOU may be aware that Lord Adonis, unaccountable architect of the detested HS2 and unelected crusader to overturn Brexit, is not one of my favourite people. He reinforces that status with his infamous recent tweet: "Wolverhampton, political base of Enoch Powell in the 60s and a huge Leave majority, is HQ to just one large company, Carillion!" Strange man. He seems to be sneering at an entire city while simultaneously snarling at Brexiters and dancing on the grave of a stricken company. They ought to put him in a circus for crotchetty old people. But then that's exactly where he is.

I AM coping with this new online spell-check but it does make some odd connections. Who, in the name of sanity, thinks when I type "some-one's" I may have intended to type "Simeon's"?

YOU have to admire the brass neck of Thomson as Cook in blatantly turning sunbeds from a holiday entitlement into a paid-for extra. We were presumably supposed to cheer the travel firm's introduction of guaranteed, pre-hired sunbeds at holiday resorts. 'The end of the battle for the sunbed' crowded one headline. But at £22 a time? It is outrageous. How long before they start charging you for a seat in the dining room?

AFTER the death of Ikea founder Ingvar Kamprad was announced, I received a flurry of emails from folk joking that he ought to be buried in a flat-pack coffin. Maybe I'm getting old but it struck me as in rather poor taste.

TALKING POINT

No honey, I'm just being nice – not sexist

"THAT'S £3.50 please sweetheart."

"Thanks love, have a good day."

That could be a scene from any retail outlet at any time of the day. Yet how far can we go with pleasantries?

I ask because walking through the centre of Wolverhampton, I encountered a hand-written notice. "A word of kindness can make someone's day."

The sentiment I wholeheartedly agree with, but not everyone may take your compliments the right way.

One rail commuter took to Twitter to express her disgust over what she called rude and misogynistic behaviour by a rail company official who had the cheek to address her as 'honey.'

Feeling patronised, she condemned the alleged put-down as 'everyday sexism'.

The company's reply – instead of an explanation or apology, she was asked if she'd prefer to be called 'pet' or 'love' next time – was probably ill-advised, but this only serves to act as a warning to others who may be easily offended by terms of endearment.

The company did apologise for what it had intended to be a light-hearted response and, while I do believe the commuter had a genuine complaint to make about the level of service, I personally think she should get a grip.

In an age when we are told that chivalry is dead, I wonder whether the same woman would complain if a 'gentleman' let her on or off the train first or held the door open for her.

From my own point of view, I have no problem with anyone I am dealing with calling me 'sweetheart', for example, they are only being polite after all. I wouldn't express the same platitudes in return as affectionate terms are only reserved for my other half. But their words will be appreciated and I will always be civil – I think please and thank you should be key words in everyone's vocabulary.

However, and this brings me back to the sign in Wolverhampton, who's to say no-one would be offended if I did call someone 'darling' for instance?

As a bloke dishing out niceties to a woman there's always the possibility that your intentions could be misread. If I tell someone their hair looks good that day or their outfit suits them, I would expect most right-minded people to take that as it is, a compliment.

We all like to be told something good about ourselves and I think one ought to tell, during face-to-face interaction at least, whether someone is being sincere or sinister. It's sad that some people can't always see it that way.

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Sensible cycling on A449 please!

I DROVE north up the A449 on Friday afternoon and signalled to turn right into Holbeche House.

I waited until there was a gap in the traffic from Himley traffic lights and started to turn right into the site. I caught sight of a cyclist riding on the pavement coming in the same direction as me, so I stopped to let him past.

I waited for another gap in the traffic then started to turn again. This time I got a bit further across the road when two more cyclists appeared out of my

blind spot going in the same direction as the first one, but much faster.

I had to stop half way across the path of the traffic now coming towards me, who also had to stop or they would have crashed into me. If I had carried on I would have crashed into the cyclists.

Why were three middle aged men cycling on the pavement at that time of day (14:30)?

Did they not realise that they could have been faced with a vehicle coming

out of Holbeche? Why were they not on the road? Why were they riding so fast?

They could have easily met a pedestrian on the pavement coming out of Holbeche round the corner where they met me. Lack of common sense and foresight.

Motorists cannot be aware of cyclists if they cannot see them even if they are wearing high viz jackets.

MOLLIE BERRY
Stourbridge

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

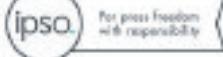
Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

EMAIL

dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Code of Practice:

Our policy is to correct errors as soon as we can. The Chronicles adhere to the Editors' Code of Practice, which can be seen at www.ipso.co.uk. If you are unhappy with the accuracy of a



story, write to The Editor, Chronicles, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Make the bosses pay for Carillion failure

THE Government has a great chance to show that they are the rulers of the country – if they have the nerve.

Sack all of the senior managers and directors of Carillion, pay them up until the end of December 2017, freeze all bonus payments and pensions due, and ban them from working in the construction industry for life.

If they can, try to find a way to recoup some of the money that they have already been paid too.

Then pick and choose new directors and make sure that they work for us – the public.

PETER COLE
Kingswinford

I could go on, but for goodness sake, someone please take a look at the area I am referring to and arrange for a clean-up.

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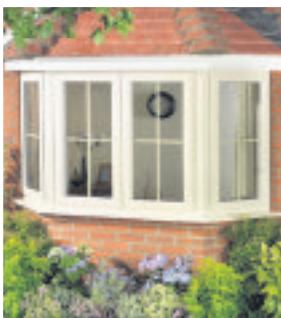


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COMPETITION

All aboard for a Peppa Pig fun journey

PEPPA PIG and her friends are back in a new live show Peppa Pig's Adventure, featuring a new story, lots of songs and heaps of fun!

Join Peppa as she gets ready to go on an exciting camping trip to the woods with George and her school friends, including Pedro Pony, Suzy Sheep and Gerald Giraffe.

With lunchboxes packed and Daddy Pig driving the bus, Peppa and her friends are excited about their outdoor adventure, full of games, laughter and live music!

The happy campers soon settle down to sleep and listen to the gentle patter of rain. Safe and warm inside their tents the excited group can look forward to morning time, when there will be lots of muddy puddles to play in.

The show is coming to a theatre near you and Chronicle readers have the chance to win a family ticket, with seven up for grabs. The show is due to stop off at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre on Saturday, April 7 and Sunday, April 8.

Richard Lewis once again takes the helm for this new live stage adaptation of eOne's animated TV series which he directs and has adapted for the theatre.

He has also adapted and directed the four previous Peppa Pig live stage shows, Peppa Pig's Party, Peppa Pig's Treasure Hunt, Peppa Pig's Big Splash and Peppa Pig's Surprise.

The show features music from BAFTA award-winning composer Mani Svavarsson. Audiences will enjoy interactive fun, songs and games



HOW TO ENTER

To be in with a chance of winning a family ticket simply answer the following question.

Who is driving the bus?

Send your entry to Peppa Pig Competition, Chronicle editorial department, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES, with your name, address and contact number. Usual rules apply. Closing date: Thursday, February 15.

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Malvern Joggers at the Stourbridge Stagger, Mary Stevens Park

£100m in support for firms hit by Carillion

Report by Simon Penfold

CONTRACTORS hit by the collapse of Wolverhampton-based construction and support services giant Carillion will be able to apply for Government-backed loans as part of a £100 million support package.

Business Secretary Greg Clark said the British Business Bank will support high street lenders to give loans to small and medium-sized businesses and individuals owed money by Carillion. Three high street banks have agreed to provide support worth almost £250m.

Mr Clark said: "We want to signal very clearly to small and medium-sized businesses who were owed money by Carillion that they will be supported to continue trading. The banks have responded to my request by agreeing to support businesses and individuals affected."

Mr Clark's department said the latest round of support will be of benefit to small businesses including the chain of subcontractors to Carillion. The Government has set up a task force involving business and unions to support firms and workers affected by the collapse of Carillion.

Its liquidation left in its wake a £900m debt pile, a £590m pension deficit and hundreds of millions of pounds in unfinished public contracts. It comes after more than 2,600 construction companies became insolvent in the last financial year, with more facing problems because of the collapse of Carillion, according to a new report.

Over the past week it has been announced that 820 staff would be made redundant with 919 other Carillion jobs saved as others took on their contracts.

Dudley people affected by the firm's collapse have been urged to call into drop-in sessions at three neighbourhood centres for advice. Staff will be on hand at Castle & Priory Neighbourhood Learning Centre in Limes Road, Dudley, from 9am to midday every Monday. They will be at Brierley Hill Neighbourhood Learning Centre in Hill Street, Brierley Hill, from 1pm to 4pm every Wednesday. Staff will also be at Dudley Wood Neighbourhood Centre in Dudley Wood Road, Dudley, every Friday from 9am to noon.

People can also contact the team by calling 01384 818143 or 07799 070974, or emailing adultlearning.dachs@dudley.gov.uk

Grilled

Meanwhile, former Carillion boss Keith Cochrane was among a string of executives being grilled by MPs on Tuesday. The former head of defunct construction giant has admitted he should have acted sooner before its collapse.

Mr Cochrane, who is among a string of executives being grilled by MPs, claimed all the decisions he took were in the best interests of the company. But he added: "Clearly the business did have issues – undoubtedly. And clearly, do I wish we had done something about it sooner? Absolutely. I recognise that."

"I can assure you that all the decisions I took in seeking to do the best thing for the business at that juncture."

Former finance chief Zafar Khan denied being 'asleep at the wheel' and expressed his surprise over the firm's liquidation.

"No, I don't believe I was asleep at the wheel because as soon as I came into the role, we were looking to tackle the issues and the key focus of my time in the role was to bring net debt down," he said. "I believe I did everything that I could have done, essentially. I was surprised at the outcome that eventually came to pass."

Run hailed another staggering success

HUNDREDS of runners braved muddy conditions in a gruelling 10-mile event.

Around 500 people took part in the Stourbridge Stagger race on Sunday, tackling the 'multi-terrain' course. Those leading the event said the day had been a 'success' and plans were already in the pipeline for it to return next year.

Race director Ian Clarke said: "It was a success. The course was testing and there was some tight racing at the front. People come back year after year to do it. I think they just like the course. If the marshals are friendly and encouraging the runners appreciate that."

Mr Clarke said the £10 charge for the event was not to make profit. He added: "It is peanuts really. We do it because we want to give something back to the sport. It will be back next year."

● See more pictures online at expressandstar.com

Arrest over death of long-serving ambulance worker in a collision

A MOTORIST has been arrested after an ambulance worker was killed in a crash at a busy junction in Wyre Forest.

Tributes have been paid to Gavin Hunt, aged 52, who was in the ambulance service for more than 20 years.

The technician was travelling with his wife on the A456 near Kidderminster at around 7.20pm on Friday when his Perodua Nippa car was involved in a smash with a Lexus, where the A road met the B4202. His wife survived and was in a stable condition in hospital.

A 45-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving and has been released as police investigations continue.

Mr Hunt joined Hereford and Worcester Ambulance Service in 1997 and joined front-line operations three years later.

He never had a day off sick and was due to be presented with his 20-year medal at an awards ceremony in March.

West Midlands Ambulance Service chief executive Anthony Marsh paid a glowing tribute to Mr Hunt, who was based at Kidderminster.

He said: "Gavin was truly dedicated to the ambulance service and has helped thousands of patients during his career.

"I saw first hand not only how deeply upset staff were at the scene but also how incredibly hard and professionally they worked with police and fire colleagues."

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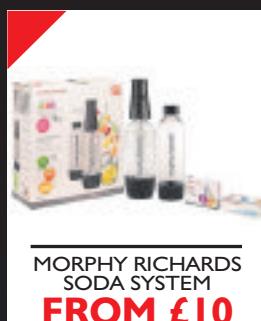
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It's a boy for tennis champion Jordanne

WORLD champion tennis player Jordanne Whiley MBE has given birth to a baby boy.

Her son Jackson Nigel McCarroll was delivered on Tuesday, January 30, at 3.30pm, weighing 7lb 13oz.

Jordanne, from Halesowen, has won ten tennis wheelchair titles, but has taken a break from the sport whilst expecting her first child.

The 25-year-old first announced she was pregnant in July, less than two weeks after winning her fourth doubles title at Wimbledon, alongside Japanese team mate Yui Kamiji.

Jordanne uploaded a photograph to her Instagram account announcing she had given birth, which featured a photograph of her partner Mark McCarroll, also a wheelchair tennis player, holding their son.

She wrote: "I am so proud to introduce you to our son Jackson Nigel McCarroll, born today at 15:30 weighing in at a healthy 7lb 13oz. I can't believe he's finally here. He's absolutely perfect."

Proud

Jordanne's parents Keith and Julie are delighted to be grandparents. Her father Keith, 69, who is also a former Paralympian, said: "We are really proud of Jordanne. Jordanne is completely over the moon. The baby looks a lot like Marc, which he is really happy about."

Jordanne was 11 weeks pregnant last year when she won the wheelchair women's doubles title at Wimbledon. It was the ninth grand slam doubles title she won. She has also won the Australian Open twice, the French Open twice and the US Open twice. She won the grand slam singles title at the US Open in 2015.



Jordanne's partner and coach Marc McCarroll holds their baby son Jackson and champion Jordanne is pictured enjoying her tennis success

Jordanne has also won a bronze medal at the 2012 and 2016 Paralympic Games. She was awarded her MBE in the 2015 Queen's Birthday Honours.

Jordanne was born with brittle bone disease, which her father Keith was also born with.

Her partner Marc, 32, who is also her coach, won the wheelchair British Open in 2014.

Marc, who was born to a family of athletes, used to play for Arsenal. But he was injured in a car accident in 2003 and took up wheelchair tennis two years later.

Jordanne's father revealed she has plans to get back into tennis. He said: "Jordanne is looking at whether she wants to get back to tennis. It will be a hard task but she will try."

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Duncan Edwards and Bobby Charlton in the Nesscliffe team of 1957, with Brian Griffiths, front row, centre

I was team-mate of legend Duncan

IT was a tackle he wasn't going to forget in a hurry. When Derek Thorpe's army football team took on their neighbouring regiment, his sergeant-major warned their opponents had one or two tasty players in their side.

Early in the game, the nippy young winger found himself dispossessed by a strapping defender playing for the other side, and decided to pay him back.

"He tackled me early on, and I thought 'I'll have you next time,'" recalls Derek, now 81. "I landed about two yards further up the pitch than I did the first time."

That player was Duncan Edwards. By the time he turned out for the Royal Army Ordnance Corps team, based in Nesscliffe, near Shrewsbury, he already had three England caps under his belt, and Derek remembers being in awe of the power, skill and speed of the great man.

"Him and Bobby Charlton were both in the same team, and they really stood out," he said. "I thought Duncan Edwards was better than Bobby Charlton, and I later read that Bobby also thought he was."

While Charlton would go on to taste World Cup success and enjoy a long, glittering career, Edwards' life would tragically be cut short as a result of the Munich air crash.

Refuel

It is 60 years this week since the disaster tore apart Matt Busby's legendary 'Busby Babes' Manchester United team which had blazed a trail for English football in the newly formed UEFA Cup. On February 6 1958, the chartered British European Airways plane had stopped in Germany to refuel, and crashed as it attempted to take off for its final leg of the journey.

Of the 44 people on board, 23 were killed. Charlton was one of the survivors. Edwards was one of eight United team members who died from injuries sustained during the crash.

"They were such great lads," added Derek. "Duncan was from Dudley, and I was from Dawley, so the lingo was pretty similar. After he had knocked me flying with his tackle, he came over to me, and said 'you all right, kid?'"

Derek, who was a regular with the Kings Shropshire Light Infantry (KSLI) at Copthorne Barracks, says he would regularly play against the Manchester United stars during their National Service in the mid-1950s.

"Because they were just up the road, we would play each other a lot," he said. But Derek recalls the games were often one-sided affairs, with the KSLI lads beating the Nesscliffe team on just one occasion, adding: "They were a cut above the rest," he added.

Also in that team was Brian Griffiths, a full back for Shrewsbury Town. Like many professional footballers from the Midlands, he was posted to Nesscliffe for his National Service so he could continue to keep playing for his club. "Duncan was already there," said Brian, aged 83. "He was a a cor-



The aftermath of the plane crash on the Munich runway 60 years ago



Busby Babe Duncan Edwards



Nesscliffe team-mate Brian Griffiths



Rose Cook-Monk and Dudley North MP Ian Austin with the book of remembrance

poral. He was a smashing lad. He was not aggressive, and his football capabilities were just unbelievable."

Brian says his wife Iris stayed in touch with Edwards's mother Sarah-Anne after the star's death, adding: "She was very proud of him."

To commemorate the disaster, a book of remembrance has been handed over in the German city. It has been presented to the minister of the Church of St Peter near Manchester-platz, a street near the airport named in honour of the club. It is now on

public display there. Rose Cook-Monk, who has made a film about Duncan's life, visited the scene of the tragedy and witnessed the opening of a memorial garden on the airfield, which is now disused.

She said: "It was emotional to be there and see the departure lounge they all left from," she said. "I didn't want to come out without Dudley being mentioned so myself and the Mayor of Dudley Councillor Dave Tyler came up with the idea of the people of Dudley remembering Duncan."

THE well-attended January meeting was presided over by chairman Julie Willetts, who wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Unfortunately, the December meeting, to have incorporated the Christmas party, had to be cancelled. Hopefully a summer party will be held instead.

Apologies were read, followed by the minutes of the previous meeting, which were duly passed and signed. The treasurer gave a favourable report regarding the financial situation, but had a busy time returning monies as a result of the cancelled Christmas party.

The choir was thanked for participating in both the guild's own carol service and that of the Federation at St Thomas' Church, Stourbridge. Money collected at the guild carol service and the January meeting will be donated to the Birmingham Teenage Cancer Unit.

Speaker for the evening Sally Gurney gave an exact definition of the term 'travellers', augmented by details of the places they lived, problems arising and solutions to these problems. The interesting talk was followed by a question and answer session after which Mrs Gurney was thanked by the chairman and members.

Raffle prizes went to Joy Cooke, Gill McKenzie and Sue Llewellyn. Pat Archer won the competition. The next meeting is at 7.30pm on February 13 at St James' Church Hall, Wollaston.

New venue and day as meetings start for 2018

Grange E Guild

GRANGE (E) Guild will hold its first meeting of 2018 in a new venue of St Peter's Centre, Pedmore Lane, Pedmore, Stourbridge on Tuesday, February 13.

Meeting dates have been changed from the first Tuesday to the second Tuesday in the month.

There is no speaker for February but guild member Jacqueline Hill will entertain members with a quiz which is always good fun. Small prizes will be awarded to the winners.

The sales table will consist of bottles and cans and there will be the usual monthly raffle.

If any ladies would like to come along as a guest to find out what Townswomen's Guild is all about, they are welcome to come along to the meeting next Tuesday at St Peter's Centre. They will receive a very warm welcome and maybe meet some new friends.

For further information call the secretary Jean Williams on 01384 832439.

Macabre and humorous tales

Sedgley Local History Society

THE next meeting of the society takes place tonight (Thursday), at 7.30pm in St Andrew's Church, Bilston Street.

Popular local historian and author Ian Bott will present an illustrated talk guaranteed to grip the imagination.

He will look at the Black Country's way of death through macabre and humorous

stories – many associated with beautiful parish churches. There are inscriptions on headstones and memorials, tales of 'body snatchers' and many anecdotes. Visitors are invited – cost is £1.

Amblecote History Society

AT the January meeting, members and visitors watched with great anticipation as Richard Wescott transformed himself from a well-presented gentleman in a suit into a pantomime dame.

He explained the way he completed the different stages of facial make-up he used to give the colourful appearance of a dame.

Giving an interesting account of the years he spent playing this part, he completed his transformation with different sequinned costumes, high heeled shoes, brightly coloured necklaces, earrings and large wigs. His talk was very interesting and entertaining with plenty of jokes and interaction with the audience who joined in whole-heartedly.

The next meeting is on February 14 at 7.30pm, in the Furnace Theatre at the Ruskin Glasshouse Arts Centre, Wollaston Road, Amblecote.

Stourbridge professional artist Geoff Tristram will give a humorous talk titled '40 years watching paint dry'.

Geoff tells his story from a scatterbrained ten-year-old with a colour biro, to the mature professional artist and occasional comedy writer that he is today. His presentation shows work for Penguin Books, Embassy World Snooker, the BBC and his famous Ravensburger Jigsaws. It will feature many amusing anecdotes.

Visitors are welcome for a £3 fee.

The society is pleased to announce it has a new website www.amblecote.org giving more information.

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Bring Parliament to Midlands, says MP

A BLACK Country MP has called for Parliament to be brought to the West Midlands.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin has backed calls to move Parliament out of London – to ‘force the metropolitan elite’ to find out what life is like outside of the capital.

The Labour MP called for an example to be set by moving the MPs and Lords out of London.

Mr Austin said: “Parliament badly needs refurbishment and unlike other countries we’ve got government, Parliament, business, finance and the media all concentrated in London, so let’s set an example and move Parliament to the West Midlands in the middle of the country.

“I think that would take pressure off London’s overheated economy and imagine how moving government to the regions could help bring new investment and new jobs to areas like the Midlands.

“Most important of all, it would force the metropolitan elite ruining the government and the civil service to listen to the rest of us and find out what life is like outside London.”

Mr Austin has previously moved a Parliamentary Bill proposing to move 100,000 civil services jobs from London to the regions.

Artist Corran adds colour to comedy



Artist and designer Corran Green from Kingswinford

ARTIST Corran Green has made a colourful splash on stage with her unique scenery designs.

The 19-year-old from Kingswinford was asked to produce the backdrops for the Fizzog comedy group’s production of The Wicked Wizard of Fizzog.

Her distinctive artwork provides a vivid addition to the successful show whichon tour around the Midlands.

Corran initially became involved with the Black Country production company through a drama workshop in Stourbridge but eventually chose art and design ahead of stage performances.

She said: “I took part in some of the Fizzog shows and my main claim to fame was when I appeared as the front end of a cow.

“It was such great fun working with them. Producing the scenery was a challenge but I tried to create something which reflected their off-beat way of presenting their show.

“Art is my main passion. With my best friend Ryan Suzuki, we are developing our own brand of T-shirts and prints and I am also working on other commissions.”

Mall's new room for disabled shoppers

A NEW Changing Places room has been opened at the intu Merry Hill shopping centre. It means people with severe disabilities can now utilise the new assisted-access toilet and changing facilities installed at the Brierley Hill centre.

The room is intended for shoppers with profound and multiple disabilities but will also cater for people with other physical and non-visual disabilities who require extra equipment and space in a safe and comfortable environment. It differs to intu Merry Hill’s standard and accessible toilets with features that include an adult-sized changing bench and features enough room to accommodate a disabled person and up to two carers. In addition there is also a height adjustable sink and a hoist to help users out of their wheelchairs.

Changing Places on the upper mall near Debenhams was officially opened by Neil Davies, chairman at Dudley Voices for Choice.

Shock figures for children carrying blades at school

SWORDS, axes and machetes are among the 260 weapons seized in schools by West Midlands Police.

Shocking figures show how many blades were picked up from schools over the past six years.

In Wolverhampton, 25 were taken by police, 20 in Walsall, 21 in Sandwell and 14 in Dudley. These include flick

knives, machetes and daggers. The children caught with weapons include three 10-year-olds.

The data obtained by the Liberal Democrats shows the range of reported crimes from schools. They include malicious woundings and even an attempted murder.

Chief Constable Dave Thompson said he was concerned some young people were carrying knives as a form

of protection. He said an education programme, involving schools and youth clubs, needed to be rolled out.

Liberal Democrats campaigner Rob Quarmpy said: “No child should be walking down the corridor of a school with a blade in their pocket. These kids are robbing knives from mum’s kitchen drawer or a screwdriver from dad’s tool shed that could, potentially, take a life.”

Street hits the roads to back charity run

WEST Midlands Mayor Andy Street will be hitting the roads after signing up to a 10k charity run. Mr Street will take part in the Black Country Road Run in and around Halesowen on July 1.

He said: “I am very much looking forward to taking part in this event. Not only will it be a great event for runners but will also raise money for many good causes in the Black Country and beyond.”

Corin Crane, chief executive of the Black Country Chamber of Commerce, added: “It is great to see the Mayor stepping up and taking on this mission for charity. I would encourage local businesses to get involved in the new Corporate Challenge.”

See theblackcountryrun.com website for details.

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The fairytale where the ogre is a hero

Ninety minutes. Every day. That's how long make-up artists take to transform Mid-Wales actor Steffan Harri into the nation's favourite ogre – Shrek.

The show is back on the road for an extended run, including shows at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from February 14 to 25.

The performances follow a record-breaking UK and Ireland Tour, during which it earned rave reviews.

Shrek the Musical is based on the story and characters from the Oscar®-winning DreamWorks Animation film.

The hilarious and spectacular production turns the world of fairytale upside down in an all-singing, all-dancing, must-see musical comedy.

Shrek and his loyal steed Donkey set off on a quest to rescue the beautiful Princess Fiona (Laura Main) from her tower, guarded by a fire breathing love-sick dragon.

The fun gets serious with the vertically challenged Lord Farquaad, a gang of fairytale misfits, and a biscuit with attitude, creating an irresistible mix of adventure, laughter and romance that is guaranteed to delight audiences of all ages.

Steffan loves it: "I was over the moon to be given the part. I toured with Shrek and was an understudy to Lord Farquaad. When I got the call to do the lead role this time, I was playing in Les Misérables. It doesn't get much different from that to this. But I jumped at the opportunity. I was keen not to go back to the part of Farquaad because I'd done that. I thought it would be good to have a go at Shrek this time and a few auditions later they gave me the job. I was over the moon."

He laughs when he remembers how he learned he was going to take the starring role. He was at work and it was about 7pm, half an hour before he was due on stage in Les Misérables in the West End. "It was incredible. I went on stage still buzzing from the news. That show was a bit of a whirlwind. But I do love Shrek the Musical. Not only is the music absolutely brilliant and a pleasure to sing every night, the show also has a book that is so funny and witty."

In some respects, Shrek is like a pantomime. It's designed equally with parents and children in mind – with some gags going over the kids' heads and causing mirth among their parents.

"You're right. It's not just for the kids it's for the adults as well. The dads who are dragged for the Saturday matinee come out laughing because of the Lord Farquaad material. The kids don't really get that."

Steffan is well-versed in the original 2001 Shrek movie, having enjoyed the best-selling computer-animated fantasy based on William Steig's 1990 fairy tale picture book of the same name. He enjoyed the voice overs from Mike Myers, Eddie Murphy, Cameron Diaz and John Lithgow – not forgetting the equally enjoyable sequels.

"I'm 26 now so I was about 10 when it came out. I remember quite vividly going to the Welshpool Solar Cinema to watch it. When I got the job, I went back to watch the film. It really is brilliant." Shrek is a real feather in Steffan's cap.

Some day my prince will come –
Shrek and Princess Fiona



After all, he's still only 26 and is already leading the line in major touring productions. He learned his trade in a quite backwater, Caerleon, in Mid-Wales, near Welshpool.

"They didn't offer drama at Caerleon High School so I looked elsewhere and Theatr Maldwyn came about in year 7-8. I learned a lot from the three teachers there and that helped me massively. That made me look elsewhere and that's when I decided to do drama and gained a place at the Guildford School of Acting. It was a fantastic school and I had the best three years there learning some fantastic skills. Now I'm out working – and that's when the real learning starts."

Steffan is thoroughly enjoying his career. He's striking out, making a name for himself and taking up opportunities that come his way. "It's great and there's such variety – literally, from Les Misérables to Shrek.

"This part is totally different to everything I've ever done before. I have a 90-minute make-up call every day so that I can be fully transformed with prosthetics. After that, I have to put on the costume

The dads who are dragged for the Saturday matinee come out laughing

and that weighs an additional 45lbs." Once all that is done, he's transformed and ready to play the ogre. He has created his own interpretation of Shrek from scratch, putting his own stamp on it.

"It's unusual to go out when you're so heavily made up. After the show, I go out of the stage door onto the street and pass people who've seen the show and they have no idea that it was me. But the anonymity doesn't mean I don't connect with Shrek – I do. OK, so Lord Farquaad steals a few scenes, but Shrek is completely believable. He has to be."

Life is moving quickly for Steffan and he's looking forward to starring at a major theatre in Birmingham so early into his career.

"I never thought I'd be leading a show at the age of 26. It's a great honour and I've very fortunate to have the opportunity. But there's a lot more that I'd like to do. I'd love to do straight drama and TV as well. I've done a bit of TV back in Wales on S4C and I would love doing more and see where it takes me. I'd like to work again in London again too. Working and being happy and healthy is as much as I can ask for and I'm very grateful that I have these opportunities."

For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.



Inheaven – turbocharged riffs



Indie rock fans will be Inheaven for arts centre gig

SOUTH London indie rockers Inheaven bring their turbocharged riffs to Wolverhampton's Newhampton Arts Centre (NAC) on Tuesday.

The quartet built around the instant hooks and striking vocals of guitarist James Taylor and bassist Chloe Little were snapped up by the Cult Records label, run by The Strokes' Julian Casablancas.

Their self-titled debut album was released last September including the single Regeneration. The

band have since released an acoustic EP and a new track for the new year, Sweet Dreams Baby.

There's another major indie rock night at the NAC, on Dunkley Street, next Friday, February 16, when one of Birmingham's top bands, JAWS, top a triple bill also featuring Synthetic Recipe and Tinned Astronaut.

Gigs tonight (Thursday) include Nightmares on Wax at the Hare and Hounds in Kings Heath in support of new album Shape The Future, and satirical rockers Half Man Half Biscuit with The Humdrum Express at the Robin 2 in Bilston.

Got those cigar box guitar blues

Smethwick guitar maker and musician John Wormald – aka Chickenbone John, The Godfather of The Cigar Box Guitar – is back again with Boxstock, the UK Cigar Box Guitar Festival.

Following the success of last year's event at the Slade Rooms, the festival returns to the Wolverhampton venue for more homemade blues-busting guitar on Saturday.

In a time when money's too tight to mention, just like the old days, some hard-up musicians have gone

back to the traditional approach of literally making their own entertainment by making their own instruments.

Seasick Steve helped bring this humble instrument to worldwide attention. As he doesn't do many UK dates these days, here's an opportunity to catch some real roots music on your own doorstep.

Heading the bill are Blackriver Bluesman and Bad Mood Hudson, a heavy metal duo all the way from Finland. After being the success of last year's event, the festival has brought back the Dusk Brothers from Bristol and super-busker Bemuzic from Cambridge.

During the daytime Chickenbone John, pictured, will be leading workshops on how to make cigar box guitars and powerhouse one-man band Hollowbelly will be leading sessions on how to play the cigar box guitar.

During these daytime sessions there will also be plenty of traders selling their handmade instruments, plus open mic sessions for those who feel ready to perform.

It's also an ideal way to find out more about the alt-blues music scene.

Tickets for the evening gig are £14 but admission is free at the Slade Rooms from noon to 5.30pm.



Ballet is a beauty in the Russian style

The curse of a wicked fairy means a beautiful princess falls into an enchanted sleep which can only be broken by a prince's kiss. Enter the opulent world of Imperial Russia for one of the grandest ballets with a score by Tchaikovsky and choreography by Marius Petipa. The Sleeping Beauty is a highlight from the Birmingham Royal Ballet repertoire on a par with the Nutcracker. The Sleeping Beauty is at Birmingham Hippodrome from Tuesday to Saturday, February 24.



Comedy nights with reality TV bridegroom

There's a funny week coming up with several top comedians in the area. Canadian stand-up Bobby Mair, as seen on Russell Howard's Good News and 8 Out Of 10 Cats, is at Wolverhampton's Slade Rooms tomorrow night (Friday). Last year Bobby – apparently a distant cousin to Justin Bieber – featured on a reality TV show about his wedding to fellow comic Harriet Kemsley. Bobby And Harriet Get Married was shown on the Viceland channel. Bobby will be back in the region at Bromsgrove Artrix on February 17 and Birmingham Glee Club on March 9. Next Thursday (Feb 15) Alun Cochrane is at the Slade Rooms. A TV regular, Alun is also co-host of The Frank Skinner Show on Absolute Radio. The master of puns and one-liners Milton Jones is at the New Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham on Sunday.

Local Events for Local People



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Side Dish: (Choose 1) Sag Aloo, Mushroom Bhaji

Accompaniment: (Choose 1) Mushroom Rice, Pilou Rice, Fried Rice, Peshwari Naan, Plain naan, Garlic Naan, Cheese Naan

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CHOICE



Brenda Emmanus

Charles I's Treasures Reunited (BBC2, 9pm)

His merits as a monarch may have been called into question (to put it mildly), but Charles I did have an impressive eye for a painting, acquiring pieces by the finest artists of the past, including D, rer, Rubens, Titian and Holbein, and commissioning works from leading contemporary artists such as Van Dyck and Rubens. Following his execution in 1649, his collection was sold off by Cromwell and scattered across Europe. Charles II reclaimed some pieces, but others went on to be shown in museums across the world. Now for the first time since the 17th century, the key masterpieces have been reunited and are on display at the Royal Academy. Brenda Emmanus presents.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast, **10.00** Live Winter Olympics 2018. Coverage of day one from PyeongChang, South Korea. **12.00** Football Focus, **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Live Winter Olympics 2018. Continued coverage of day one from PyeongChang, South Korea. **4.30** Final Score, **5.25** BBC News. **5.35** Regional Programme. **5.45** And They're Off for Sport Relief. **6.25** Pointless Celebrities. Sarah Millican, Gary Delaney, Jack Carroll, Terry Alderton, Lee Hurst, Arthur Smith, Helen Lederer and Cariad Lloyd take part in a comedy-themed edition of the unorthodox quiz show. **7.15** All Together Now. Rob Beckett hosts as more singers step on-stage for a chance to win a £50,000 cash prize, performing hits as varied as Sia's Chandelier, Oasis's Don't Look Back in Anger, and Whitney Houston's I Wanna Dance with Somebody. The judging panel takes the form of 'The 100', a large collective of music experts and performers from all over the UK. **8.20** Casualty. The day of Blake's trial arrives, and Elle finds herself face-to-face with his victim, Miles, when he is rushed into the ED after collapsing at home. **9.10** BBC News: Weather. **9.30** Hard Sun. Grace Morrigan is apprehended by the police and brought in for questioning. Determined to keep themselves and their loved ones from harm's way, Hicks and Renko come up with a scheme that will turn Morrigan's government colleagues against her, but the veteran spook refuses to let herself be outmaneuvered so easily. Meanwhile, a woman's car is found abandoned near a meadow, with what appears to be a suicide note left on the dashboard. Last in the series. **10.30** Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Tottenham Hotspur v Arsenal and Manchester City v Leicester City. **11.50** Live Winter Olympics 2018. Radzi Chinyanganya presents coverage of the latest events on day two of the 23rd staging of the Games. **2.00** Live Winter Olympics 2018. Further coverage from PyeongChang, South Korea.

BBC2

6.00 Live Winter Olympics 2018. Coverage of day one from PyeongChang, South Korea. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live, **11.30** Mary Berry Everyday, (R) **12.00** Live Winter Olympics 2018. Continued coverage of day one from PyeongChang, South Korea. **1.15** The Hairy Bikers' Mediterranean Adventure. **2.15** Escape to the Country. **3.00** Italy's Invisible Cities. (R) **4.00** Nigel Slater's Middle East. (R) **5.00** Dragons' Den, (R) **6.00** Hugh's Wild West. Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall's tour of the West Country continues as he explores the Forest of Dean. He enlists the aid of local wildlife enthusiasts to track down imposing wild boar, which have returned to the area for the first time in 300 years. He also has a close encounter with a goshawk, a bird of prey that specialises in hunting in woodland, and one that has come to be known locally as 'the phantom of the forest'. **7.00** Winter Olympics – Today at the Games. Clare Balding presents highlights of the opening day's action from the 23rd staging of the Games, which takes place in PyeongChang, South Korea. **8.00** Dad's Army. A secret weapon goes haywire and threatens Walmington-on-Sea, (R) **8.30** Grand Tours of Scotland's Lochs. Paul Murton explores lochs close to the Central Belt, starting on the banks of the Lake of Menteith and ending by climbing Ben Venue in the Trossachs. Last in the series. **9.00** Charles I's Treasures Reunited. Documentary detailing how the Royal Academy reunited works of art that once formed part of Charles I's substantial collection, but were sold off piecemeal following his execution. **10.00** Film: The Young Victoria. (2009) In the early years of the queen's reign, she is drawn into a power struggle and falls in love with her cousin and eventual husband. Period drama, with Emily Blunt and Rupert Friend. **11.35** Film: Love Is All You Need. (2012) A Danish woman recovering from treatment for cancer falls in love with the widowed father of her daughter's fiance. Romantic drama, with Pierce Brosnan and Trine Dyrholm. **1.00** You've Been Framed! (R) **1.30** Jackpot247, **3.00** Babushka, (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty, **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street, (R) **6.20** Bottom Knocker Street, (R) **6.35** Dino Dana, (R) **6.50** Super 4, (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story, (R) **7.05** Marvel Ultimate Spider-Man vs The Sinister Six, **7.30** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show, (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Fangbone, (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: The Powerpuff Girls, (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Be Cool, Scooby-Doo!, (R) **9.05** Scrambled!: Wishart, (R) **9.25** ITV News, **9.30** James Martin's Saturday Morning, **11.20** Dancing on Ice, (R) **1.15** Regional Programme: Weather, **1.20** ITV News, Weather, **1.30** Live Six Nations Rugby Union, Ireland v Italy (Kick-off 2.15pm), **4.20** Live Six Nations Rugby Union, England v Wales (Kick-off 4.45pm). **7.00** Take Me Out. Paddy McGuinness presents as more single men enter his 'Love Lift' in the hope of impressing his panel of 30 unattached ladies. This time, Josh, a fitness fanatic from Woking, Dan, a volcanologist from Bristol, HR manager Martin from Sunderland, and Iai, an NHS worker from Birmingham will be hoping to find romance. Plus, a chance to catch up with last week's couples. **8.15** The Voice UK. Emma Willis ushers more would-be stars onto the stage, as the penultimate round of Blind Auditions arrives. Once again, the singers will be asked to perform in front of coaches Will.i.am, Olly Murs, Jennifer Hudson and Tom Jones, who all must appraise their skills with their backs to the performer. Only once they have decided to pledge their support are the coaches permitted to spin their chair around greet the singer in question. **9.45** Through the Keyhole. Keith Lemon challenges Jimmy Carr, Eamonn Holmes and Scarlett Moffatt to guess which celebrity homes he has infiltrated. **10.50** Film: Lethal Weapon 2. (1989) The detectives set their sights on a South African diplomat laundering drug money via his embassy in the US. Action thriller sequel, with Mel Gibson, Danny Glover and Joss Ackland. **1.00** You've Been Framed! (R) **1.30** Jackpot247, **3.00** Babushka, (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 3rd Rock from the Sun, (R) **6.45** 3rd Rock from the Sun, (R) **7.10** The King of Queens, (R) **7.35** The King of Queens, (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond, (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond, (R) **9.00** Frasier, (R) **9.30** Frasier, (R) **10.00** Frasier, (R) **10.30** The Big Bang Theory, (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory, (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory, (R) **12.00** The Simpsons, (R) **12.30** The Simpsons, (R) **1.00** The Simpsons, (R) **1.30** Come Dine with Me, (R) **2.30** Coast vs Country, (R) **3.30** A Place in the Sun, (R) **4.30** The Secret Life of the Zoo, (R) **5.30** The Supervet, (R) **6.30** Channel 4 News. **7.00** Great Canal Journeys. Timothy West and Prunella Scales return to Wales to explore a canal that has eluded them for more than half a century. The Monmouthshire and Brecon canal is cut off from the rest of Britain's network of waterways by the Black Mountains, and meanders its way through the tranquil Usk valley. Along the way the couple visit the old ironworks at Blaenavon, where children as young as five were once put to work, and lend a hand with some lock restoration work. They also explore the castle at Tretower – which is rumoured to be haunted. Last in the series. **8.00** Village of the Year Final with Penelope Keith. The four remaining villages compete in the grand final, with residents of each community putting on a special event to showcase what makes their home special. Last in the series. **9.00** Film: Die Hard 4.0. (2007) Tough New York cop John McClane is sent to escort a computer hacker to Washington for questioning. During this routine operation he stumbles on a criminal mastermind's plan to launch a technological terrorist attack on the US, and is forced to enlist the hacker's aid in foiling the evil scheme. Action thriller sequel, with Bruce Willis, Tim Roth, Justin Long and Maggie Q. **11.35** Film: Ted. (2012) A boy's magical living teddy remains his friend into adulthood, creating tension with his girlfriend. Comedy, starring Mark Wahlberg, with the voice of Seth MacFarlane. **1.20** The Last Leg, (R) **2.20** Hollyoaks, (R) **4.25** Coast vs Country, (R) **5.20** Location, Location, Location, (R)

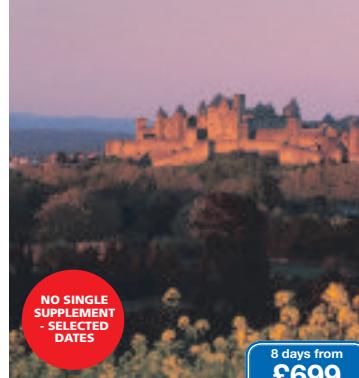
CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!, **10.05** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, (R) **10.40** Pats Make You Laugh Out Loud, (R) **11.05** Police Interceptors, (R) **12.00** Police Interceptors, (R) **1.00** The A-Team, (R) **2.00** The A-Team, (R) **3.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away, (R) **4.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away, (R) **5.00** Rich House, Poor House, (R) **6.00** The Wonderful World of Puppies. The documentary concludes, offering an insight into the final stages of a puppy's early development. This time, the focus falls on how fun, engaging activities help young canines to improve their ability to learn – and their general state of happiness. Last in the series. **7.00** Cruising with Jane McDonald: Caribbean. The singer embarks on a series of ocean odysseys, and while she is no stranger to the open sea, having found fame on 1998 BBC TV documentary The Cruise, the mega-cruiser she boards is a far cry from the 600-passenger vessel she is used to. In the opening edition, she and her fellow passengers stop off in Nassau in the Bahamas, where Jane finds solace in the state's oldest baptist church, (R) **8.00** The World's Most Luxurious Cruise Ship. Part one of two. Following engineers and designers as they construct the Seven Seas Explorer, aiming to make it the most luxurious ship in the world of its size, (R) **8.55** 5 News Weekend. **9.00** Football on 5: The Championship. Colin Murray introduces highlights from the weekend's games in the Championship, including Wolverhampton Wanderers v Queens Park Rangers and Barnsley v Sheffield Wednesday. **10.00** Football on 5: Goal Rush. Colin Murray introduces all the goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two, including AFC Wimbledon v Northampton Town and Bradford City v Bury. **10.30** Film: The Silence of the Lambs. (1991) A trained FBI agent engages in a battle of wills with an imprisoned psychopath to gain his help in catching a serial killer. Thriller, starring Jodie Foster and Anthony Hopkins. **12.40** SuperCasino, **3.10** Cowboy Builders, (R) **4.45** House Doctor, (R) **5.10** Great Scientists, (R) **5.35** Wildlife SOS, (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four **7.00** Sicily: Wonder of the Mediterranean **8.00** Winter Olympics Extra **9.00** Modus **10.30** The Fall: The Wonderful and Frightening World of Mark E Smith **11.30** Top of the Pops: 1985 **12.35** Rock 'n' Roll **2.05** Poor House: The Story of the Sideman **2.05** Sicily: Wonder of the Mediterranean **3.05** Close **ITV2** **11.55** Take Me Out **1.10** Mr Bean **1.45** Film: Beethoven (1992) **2.50** FYI Daily **2.55** Film: Beethoven (1992) **3.30** Film: Valentine's Day (2010) **4.45** FYI Daily **4.50** Film: Valentine's Day (2010) **5.55** Film: The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (2013) **6.55** FYI Daily **7.00** Film: The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (2013) **9.00** Film: The Hangover Part II (2011) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05** Film: The Hangover Part II (2011) **11.05** Family Guy **12.05** American Dad! **1.00** Release the Hounds **2.00** Ibiza Weekender **3.00** ITV2 Teleshopping **4.15** A Touch of Frost **1.25** Film: Columbus: The Greenhouse Jungle (1972) **3.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **5.00** Midsummer Murders **7.00** The Durrells **9.00** Midsummer Murders **11.00** Lewis **1.00** The Good Karma Hospital **1.55** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** ITV2 Teleshopping **ITV3** **11.35** Fishing Impossible **12.35** Pawn Stars **1.30** ITV Racing: Live from Newbury. Coverage of today's meetings at Newbury and Warwick. **4.00** Film: Lonely Are the Brave (1962) **5.05** FYI Daily **5.10** Film: Lonely Are the Brave (1962) **6.15** Storage Wars **6.45** Live Snooker Shoot-Out. Coverage of the third day's play at the single-frame tournament. **11.00** Film: Green Zone (2010) **12.00** FYI Daily **12.05** Film: Green Zone (2010) **1.15** Minder **2.20** The Car Chasers **2.40** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **E4** **11.00** The Goldbergs **1.30** Toy Story Toons: Partyaurus Rex **1.40** The Big Bang Theory **6.45** Film: The Devil Wears Prada (2006) **9.00** Film: Riddick (2013) **11.20** Gogglebox **12.30** Naked Attraction **1.30** Celebs Go Dating **4.20** How I Met Your Mother **5.05** Rude(ish) Tube **Film4** **11.00** Catch That Kid (2004) **1.00** Dr Seuss' The Lorax (2012) **2.45** Diary of a Wimpy Kid (2010) **4.35** Volcano (1997) **6.35** I, Robot (2004) **9.00** The Other Woman (2014) **11.10** The Fly (1986) **1.00** Young Detective Dee: Rise of the Sea Dragon (2013) **3.45** Close

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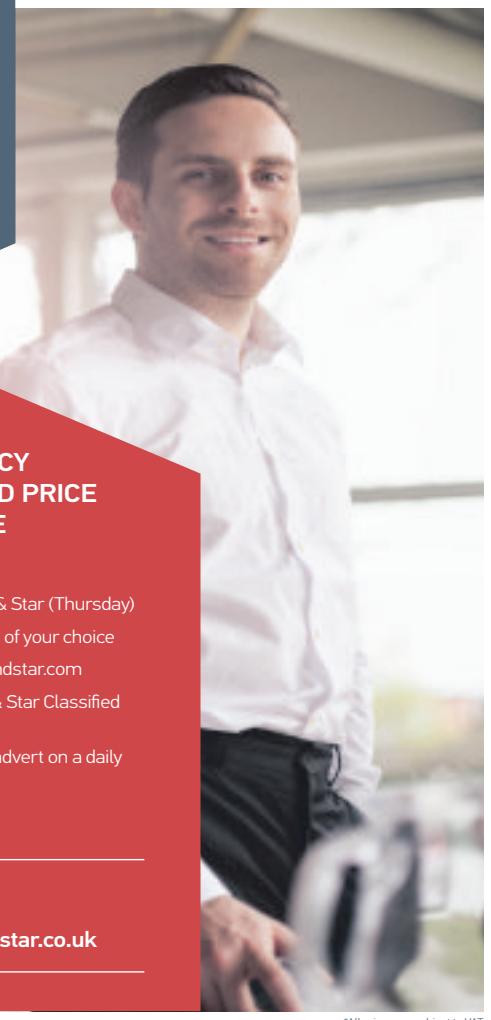
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SUNDAY'S TV FEBRUARY 11

CHOICE



Tom Garrison

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast, **7.35** Match of the Day, (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show, **10.00** The Big Questions, **11.00** Regional Programme, **12.15** BBC News; Weather, **12.30** Live Winter Olympics 2018, Coverage of day two from PyeongChang, South Korea, **2.30** Live Six Nations, Rugby Union, Scotland v France (Kick-off 3.00pm), **5.00** Songs of Praise, **5.35** Celebrity Mastermind, (R)

6.05 BBC News.

6.20 Regional Programme.

6.30 *Countryfile*: Ellie Harrison and Matt Baker visit Cambridgeshire, where a project is underway to turn a quarry into a safe red bed habitat for one of the UK's rarest birds, the bittern. Richard Taylor-Jones witnesses a spectacular display of wildlife! Adam Henson meets a young farmer in the New Forest, and Tom Heap discovers how Bill gates is making the most of British agricultural expertise.

7.30 *Still Open All Hours*, Granville goes to Scarborough hoping to catch up with Mavis, and leaves Leroy in charge of the shop – which soon has an unconscious customer on the floor. Last in the series.

8.00 *Call the Midwife*. Sister Julienne helps a woman from Pakistan who is unable to have children, but has found to her shock that her husband is bringing a pregnant second wife into their home.

9.00 *McMafia*. Alex travels to Moscow on business, unaware of the danger he is rushing into. He has only one way to save himself as he faces a final showdown with Vadim. Last in the series.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 *Match of the Day* 2. Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action – Newcastle United v Manchester United, Southampton v Liverpool and Huddersfield Town v Bournemouth.

11.35 *The Women's Football Show*. A look at the biggest issues in the women's game, focusing on matters at both club and international level.

12.10 Live Winter Olympics 2018. Coverage of day three from PyeongChang, South Korea, **3.30** Live Winter Olympics 2018, Continued coverage of day three from PyeongChang, South Korea.

BBC2

6.00 Live Winter Olympics 2018. Coverage of day two from PyeongChang, South Korea, **9.15** Live Winter Olympics 2018, Coverage of day two from PyeongChang, South Korea, **12.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites, **2.00** Food & Drink, (R) **2.30** Back in Time for Tea, (R) **3.30** The Crane Gang, (R) **4.30** Live Winter Olympics 2018. Coverage of day two from PyeongChang, South Korea.

6.00 *New York: America's Busiest City*.

Antia Rani, Ade Adepitan, Ant Anstead and Dani Snow look at food consumption in the Big Apple. From dusk until dawn at the New Fulton fish market in The Bronx, they uncover the hidden night time operations, hard-nosed negotiations and price fluctuations of this enormous wholesale operation. (R)

7.00 *Winter Olympics – Today at the Games*. Clare Balding presents highlights of the second day's action from the 23rd staging of the Games, which takes place in PyeongChang, South Korea.

8.00 *South Korea: Earth's Hidden Wilderness*. Documentary exploring the wildlife, traditions and landscape in the country's rural areas, including footage of dolphins swimming alongside humans and a falconer flying a goshawk.

9.00 *Dragons' Den*. The panel assess the profit-making potential of selling advertising space on the move, a scheme for improving children's handwriting, and a motorcycle chain-tensioning product.

10.00 *The Mash Report*. Nish Kumar and a cast of comedy correspondents present the satirical and surreal take on the week's news. (R)

10.30 *Live at the Apollo*. Nish Kumar presents stand-up comedy from the Hammersmith Apollo in west London, introducing sets by Luisa Omielan and David O'Doherty. (R)

11.15 *Cleverman*. Koen's power and understanding grows as he spends time with Uncle Jimmy, while Warui discovers a dangerous creature and is led to a substance he believes can vanquish the Cleverman.

12.10 *Women's Six Nations Highlights*.

12.40 *Film: The Deep*, (2012) **2.05** Sign Zone: Question Time, (R) **3.05** Holby City, (R) **4.05** Weather for the Week Ahead, **4.10** BBC News.

ITV

6.00 *CITV: Sooty*, **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street, (R) **6.20** Bottom Knocker Street, (R) **6.35** Dino Dana, (R) **6.50** Super 4, (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story, (R) **7.05** Marvel's Avengers: Ultron Revolution, **7.30** Scrambled!, The Tom and Jerry Show, (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Ben 10, (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series, (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Spy School, (R) **9.05** Scrambled!: Wishart, (R) **9.25** ITV News, (R) **9.30** Peston on Sunday, **11.00** The Martin Lewis Money Show, (R) **11.25** The Voice UK, (R) **12.55** ITV News; Weather, **1.00** Britain's Best Walks with Julia Bradbury, (R) **1.30** What Would Your Kid Do? (R) **2.30** The Cruise, Return to the Mediterranean, (R) **3.00** Britain's Brightest Family, (R) **3.30** Tipping Point, (R) **4.30** Regional Programme; Weather, **4.40** ITV News; Weather, **5.00** The Celebrity Chase, (R)

6.00 *Dancing on Ice*. Love Week arrives at the rink, just in time for St Valentine's Day, Jayne Torvill, Christopher Dean, Jason Gardiner and Ashley Banjo once more take their places on the judging panel, as Holly Willoughby and Philip Schofield welcome the eight remaining celebrities and their pro-skater partners back out onto the ice.

8.00 *Endeavour*. Oxford plays host to a veteran film star, in town to visit a local cinema. However, a mysterious death casts a sinister pall over the occasion, and offers the newly promoted DS Endeavour Morse a fresh case to pursue. Meanwhile, a family visit puts DCI Thursday's hospitality to the test. Inspector Morse prequel, starring Shaun Evans and Roger Allam.

10.00 *ITV News*; Weather.

10.30 *Live at the Apollo*. Nish Kumar presents stand-up comedy from the Hammersmith Apollo in west London, introducing sets by Luisa Omielan and David O'Doherty, (R)

11.15 *Cleverman*. Koen's power and understanding grows as he spends time with Uncle Jimmy, while Warui discovers a dangerous creature and is led to a substance he believes can vanquish the Cleverman.

12.10 *Women's Six Nations Highlights*.

12.40 *Film: The Deep*, (2012) **2.05** Sign Zone: Question Time, (R) **3.05** Holby City, (R) **4.05** Weather for the Week Ahead, **4.10** BBC News.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 *The King of Queens*, (R) **6.40** The King of Queens, (R) **7.05** Everybody Loves Raymond, (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond, (R) **8.00** Frasier, (R) **8.30** Frasier, (R) **9.00** Frasier, (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch, **12.30** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast, (R) **1.35** The Simpsons, (R) **2.05** The Simpsons, (R) **2.35** *Film: School of Rock*, (2003) Comedy, starring Jack Black, **4.45** *Film: Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer, (2007) Sci-Fi adventure sequel, starring Ioan Gruffudd.*

6.30 *Channel 4 News*.

7.00 *Posh Pawn*. The return of the programme offering an insight into the world of high-end pawnbroking. James takes a ride around London on his eye-catching supercar, with an aspiring fitness guru who's looking for £80,000. With her eyes on a round-the-world cruise costing £30,000, an adventurous retiree wants to sell a collection of handbags and jewellery. A car enthusiast contacts memorabilia expert Lawrence about a helmet that once belonged to land speed record-breaker Donald Campbell, and James faces a dilemma when he gets an offer for one of his favourite impulse buys. (R)

8.00 *Lost Pyramids of the Maya*. Documentary following a research project that has uncovered the ruins of an ancient hidden civilisation in the jungles of Central America.

9.00 *Film: Spy*, (2015) Premiere. A deskbound CIA agent provides valuable background support for a dashing secret agent, but has never gone into action herself.

Everything changes, when the spy mysteriously vanishes, and she leaps into action to take his place, infiltrating the inner circle of a ruthless arms dealer and trying to avert a global catastrophe. Comedy adventure, starring Melissa McCarthy.

11.25 *Film: Friends with Benefits*.

(2011) A recruiter sleeps with one of her client's staff, but keeping their feelings out of the arrangement proves tricky. Romantic comedy, starring Justin Timberlake and Mila Kunis.

1.25 *The World's Most Expensive Food*, (R) **2.20** *The Supervet*, (R) **3.15** Sarah Beeny's Four Rooms, (R) **4.10** Gillette World Sport, **4.35** KOTV Boxing Week, **5.05** Location, Location, Location, (R).

CHANNEL 5

6.00 *Milkshake! Little Princess*, **6.10** *Wisper*, (R) **6.20** *The Men Show*, (R) **6.30** *Milkshake! Monkey*, (R) **6.35** *The Secret Life of Puppies*, (R) **6.40** *Motley*, (R) **6.45** *Simon*, (R) **6.50** *Simon*, (R) **6.55** *Peppa Pig*, (R) **7.00** *Paw Patrol*, (R) **7.15** *Thomas & Friends*, (R) **7.25** *Fireman Sam*, (R) **7.35** *Oly the Little White Van*, (R) **7.45** *Blaze and the Monster Machines*, (R) **8.10** *Paw Patrol*, (R) **8.30** *Nella the Princess Knight*, (R) **8.45** *Noddy: Toyland Detective*, (R) **8.55** *Be and Holly's Little Kingdom*, (R) **9.10** *Shimmer and Shine*, (R) **9.30** *Digital Dragon*, (R) **9.45** *Peppa Pig*, (R) **9.55** *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*, (R) **10.25** *Football on 5: The Champions*, (R) **11.15** *Football on 5: Goal Rush*, (R) **11.45** *Police Interceptors*, (R) **12.45** *Film: Over Her Dead Body*, (2008) Supernatural romantic comedy, starring Eva Longoria, **2.30** *Film: What to Expect When You're Expecting*, (2012) Comedy drama, starring Cameron Diaz, **4.25** *Film: News Update, **5.35** *Film: Sleepless in Seattle, (1993) Concluded.**

6.30 *Film: Along Came Polly*, (2004)

An obsessive man's orderly routine is thrown into disarray when a wildy spontaneous old friend walks back into his life. Romantic comedy, with Ben Stiller and Jennifer Aniston. Edited for language and sexual content.

8.00 *Rom-Com LOL Special*. Jain Lee narrates a collection of internet videos featuring weddings. (R)

9.00 *Britain's Favourite Rom-Com*. As St Valentine's Day approaches, a selection of film stars, comedians and TV personalities revisit some of cinema's most memorable romantic comedies, via a top 40 list interspersed with personal accounts of first loves. Celebrating the unique way this particular genre gets audiences laughing and crying in equal measure, and among the actors sharing their thoughts on the films are Sleepless in Seattle's Rita Wilson, and Gregory's Girl star Clare Grogan.

11.55 *Film: There's Something About Mary*, (1998) A lovesick man hires a seedy detective to track down his high-school sweetheart. Comedy, starring Cameron Diaz.

2.10 *SuperCasino*, **4.00** *Get Your Tatts Out*: Kavos Ink, (R) **4.45** *House Doctor*, (R) **5.10** *Great Scientists*, (R) **5.35** *Wildlife SOS*, (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 *Only Connect*, **7.30** *University Challenge*, **8.00** *Winter Olympics Extra*, **9.00** *Horizon: Mars – A Traveller's Guide*, **10.00** *The Sky at Night*, **10.30** *Film: Mars*, (2015) **12.15** *Songs Musicals*, **1.15** *Horizon: Mars – A Traveller's Guide, **2.15** *Art, Passion & Power: The Story of the Royal Collection*, **3.15** *Closet*.*

ITV2

12.00 *Take Me Out*, **1.20** *The Voice UK*, **2.50** *Film: Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore, (2010) **3.50** *Film: Daily 3.55**

5.00 *Film: Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore, (2010) **5.45** *Film: Despicable Me 2, (2013) **5.55** *Film: Despicable Me 2, (2013) **6.40** *Film: Jurassic World*, (2015) **7.40** *FYI Daily*, **7.45** *Film: Jurassic World*, (2015) **9.00** *Survival of the Fittest*, **10.30** *Film: Family Guy*, **12.00** *American Dad!*, **12.55** *The Cleveland Show*, **1.00** *Totally Bonkers*, **2.30** *Guinness World Records****

2.30 *Teleshopping*

ITV3

12.15 *Film: Columbo: The Greenhouse Jungle, (1972) **1.50** *Agatha Christie's Marple*, **3.50** *The Murders 6.00* *Midsomer Murders*, **8.00** *Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs 9.00* *Night at the London Palladium*, **10.00** *Birds of a Feather*, **11.00** *Film: Changeling*, (2008) **1.45** *Blue Murder*, **3.00** *George and Mildred*, **3.55** *Road to Avonlea*, **5.40** *ITV3 Nightscreen**

ITV4

11.45 *Live Snooker Shoot-Out*, Coverage of the afternoon session in the fourth and final day's play, **4.00** *Pawn Stars*, **5.45** *Live Snooker Shoot-Out*, Further coverage of the fourth day's play at the single-frame tournament, **10.00** *Film: Executive Decision*, (1996) **11.00** *FYI Daily*, **11.05** *Film: Executive Decision*, (1996) **12.45** *Minder*, **2.35** *ITV4 Nightscreen*, **3.00** *Teleshopping*

E4

11.00 *The Goldbergs*, **12.30** *Film: Casper*, (1995) **2.30** *The Big Bang Theory*, **7.00** *Film: Men in Black*, (1997) **9.00** *Celebs Go Dating*, **10.00** *Naked Attraction*, **11.05** *The Big Bang Theory*, **12.00** *Googlebox*, **1.00** *Celebs Go Dating*, **2.05** *Naked Attraction*, **3.00** *First Dates Abroad*, **3.25** *Hollyoaks*

Film4

11.00 *The Great St Trinian's Train Robbery*, (1966) **1.00** *Young Sherlock Holmes*, (1985) **3.10** *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, (1959) **4.50** *Evolution*, (2001) **6.50** *Last Holiday*, (2006) **9.00** *13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi*, (2016) **11.50** *Limitless*, (2011) **1.55** *Enough Said*, (2013) **3.45** *Close*

Chicago

Boasting six Tony Awards, two Olivier Awards and a Grammy, and now starring Academy Award-Winner Cuba Gooding Jnr in his West End stage debut, Chicago is returning to London to celebrate 21 years of standing ovations in style!

This dazzling production has thrilled audiences around the world since 1996, telling the story of nightclub singer Roxie Hart, her rival Velma Kelly and the slick defence lawyer Billy Flynn. With impressive choreography and a show-stopping score featuring the iconic songs Razzle Dazzle, Cell Block Tango and All That Jazz, this production is sure to entertain.

London Theatre Break

2 Days by Coach - Matinee

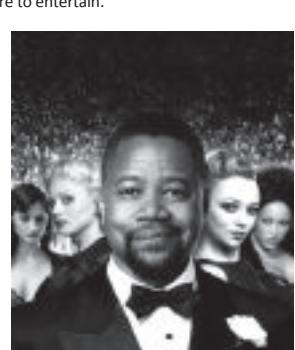
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- ✓ Free time in London

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School of Rock

Dewey Finn, a failed wannabe rock star, decides to earn a little extra cash by posing as a substitute teacher at a prestigious prep school. Not being a star academic performer nor great at marking essays, Dewey instead decides to create his own curriculum, turning his class into a guitar-shredding, bass-slapping, mind-blowing rock band.

Based on the Paramount film written by Mike White and starring Jack Black, this rocking stage musical is produced by Andrew Lloyd Webber who has added 14 new songs to the score, which also includes all the original songs from the film.

London Theatre Break

2 Days by Coach - Matinee

Departing Saturday 7 Apr

from Dudley, Halesowen & Stourbridge

Price Includes...

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- ✓ 1 night DBB at a selected hotel, Heathrow area
- ✓ School of Rock theatre ticket - Stalls/Circle (matinee performance)
- ✓ Free time in London

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

The Deadly Twin, Channel 5, 3.20pm

Premiere. A woman springs into action after discovering that the twin brother of her daughter's boyfriend has escaped from a psychiatric institution intent on revenge. Thriller, starring Brigid Brannagh, Timothy Granaderos and Calista Carradine. (2017)

TUESDAY

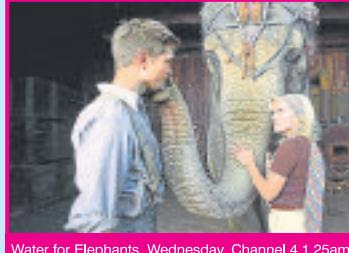
Fatal Fiance, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A woman joins forces with a reporter to clear the name of her fiance, who has become the prime suspect in a murder case. However, not everything is as it seems. Thriller, starring Jenny Wade, Jordi Vilasuso and Taylor Cole. (2016)

WEDNESDAY

Water for Elephants, Channel 4, 1.25am

A veterinary student is left homeless and penniless after his parents' deaths during the Depression. He joins a travelling circus, applying his skills to caring for the animals, and falls in love with the possessive owner's wife as they tend an elephant together. Romantic drama based on Sara Gruen's novel, with Reese Witherspoon and Robert Pattinson. (2011)



Water for Elephants, Wednesday, Channel 4, 1.25am

THURSDAY

A Husband's Confession, Channel 5, 3.15pm

Preacher Evan Tanning's peaceful life as a radio parenting advisor is shattered when the son he never knew he had turns up on his doorstep, jeopardising his credibility ahead of the nationwide launch of his show. However, events take an even more catastrophic turn when Tanning's wayward teenage niece Jamie goes missing. Drama, starring JR Bourne and Allie Gonino. (2015)

FRIDAY

Magic Mike, Channel 4, 12.10am

A male stripper who is the star attraction in a nightclub teaches a talented young dancer the tricks of the trade, while also introducing him to his hedonistic world. The veteran performer falls for his protégé's sister, but finds his wild lifestyle comes between them. Steven Soderbergh's comedy drama, with Channing Tatum and Olivia Munn. (2012)

Perez has a new case to crack on an old murder

We know what you're thinking – not ANOTHER crime drama.

After all, TV isn't exactly short of them, whether they're home grown or being imported from the US or, as is more likely these days, Europe.

There's no wonder that the recent National Television Awards introduced a category dedicated to them – there are just so many being made these days.

Two of them have been inspired by the books of Ann Cleeves. Vera recently ended its more recent run on ITV, and now Shetland is back for its fourth series, two years on from its predecessor.

Although born and raised in England, Cleeves knows the place well, having lived there; she's currently living in Whitley Bay, close to where her Vera books are set.

Some fans have complained that the TV plots don't follow the exact pattern of her novels, but she's relaxed about that.

"The TV adaptations are very often very different - the scriptwriters

cut some characters and add others, cut big chunks of plot and sometimes they even change the murderer!" she laughs.

"But prose and film are different forms. Besides, the book stops being mine every time someone reads it. Each reader brings their own imagination, history and prejudice to the story and each writer has to learn to let go. Adaptation just takes the process a bit further."

One of the secrets of Shetland's success is its far north setting – the isles themselves are almost a character in their own right.

"I think the viewers are naturally drawn to the place, the setting and curious about what Shetland is like," explains Douglas Henshall, who plays the lead character, DI Jimmy Perez. "And, beyond the location, it's a well written drama which draws you in."

This time around, fans of the books don't need to worry about a favourite story being torn apart by a screenwriter, because this time, it's

a completely original tale that runs throughout the six-part series.

"David Kane has created a compelling and distinctive crime story told across six hours. We are also thrilled to have the brilliant core cast return," says executive producer Kate Bartlett.

Her colleague Gaynor Holmes adds: "Shetland has a loyal following and we're sure they will be thrilled with the surprises we've got for them this time around."

The plot focuses on local man Thomas Malone, who has spent the past 23 years behind bars after being found guilty of murdering teenager Lizzie Kilmuir. Malone has always protested his innocence, and when his conviction is eventually overturned, it's up to Perez and the team to find out what really happened to Lizzie.

Perez speaks to the original investigating officer, Drew McColl. Now retired, he has plenty to say about the case, and explains why, despite DNA evidence to the contrary, he still believes Malone is guilty.



Douglas Henshall stars in Shetland, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Trauma, ITV, 9pm

New series. After a bad day at work, Dan Bowker arrives home drunk to discover that his 15-year-old son Alex has not come home and no-one knows where he is. Meanwhile, off-duty trauma surgeon Jon Allerton is at home celebrating his birthday when he is called into work to operate on Alex, who has been stabbed. When the medical team is unable to save Alex, Dan cannot let go of the idea that the surgeon is responsible for the death of his son. Thriller, starring Adrian Lester and John Simm, with Rowena King and Lyndsey Marshal.

Julius Caesar Revealed, BBC1, 9pm

The classicist sets out on a quest to uncover the real Julius Caesar, challenging the received popular view of the Roman emperor. She looks at how he became the autocratic ruler of Rome, the tactics of his military campaigns, his use of spin and PR on his way to the top, and the reasons behind his assassination on the Ides of March in 44 BC. The scholar also examines his surprising legacy right up to the present day, revealing how his influence is still shaping language, politics and people's everyday lives.

TUESDAY

Flatpack Empire, BBC2, 9pm

Cameras continue to roam the boardrooms and warehouses of one of Sweden's most successful exports since Abba. This week, one of IKEA's newest designers, Hanna-Kaaria Heikkila, wants to challenge mass production by creating an 'imperfect vase' that has the finger-marks of its creator. There's also a visit to the home of the Billy Bookcase to see what it takes to be a supplier for IKEA.

WEDNESDAY

Earth's Natural Wonders, BBC1, 9pm

New series. Cameras explore some of the most breathtaking places on earth, following the lives of some of the people who call these extraordinary places home. In the first episode cameras follow Yak-herder Thokmay Lowa as he leads his herd through one of the most treacherous mountain passes in the high Himalaya. Elsewhere, the programme follows members of Inuit communities in the Canadian Arctic as they take part in the hazardous mussel

harvest, and people in Siberia searching for mammoth tusks, now released from the Siberian Permafrost after thousands of years.

Damned, Channel 4, 10pm

Channel 4 recently caused a stir with the acclaimed drama Kiri, especially over its portrayal of a social worker, played by Sarah Lancashire, who found herself in the firing line when a child in her care went missing. But that hasn't stopped the channel returning to the subject as Jo Brand's comedy about social workers is back for a second series. The run certainly feels topical as the team at Elm Heath find themselves dealing with a case of historic abuse. So, it's not a great time for Denise (Georgie Glenn) to bring Mimi (Lolly Adeope) into the fold, especially as newly single Al (Alan Davies) and a permanently stressed Rose (Brand) are too busy to mentor her.

Trauma, Monday, BBC1, 9pm

THURSDAY
Children Who Kill, ITV, 9pm

Juveniles found guilty of murder in the US are given life, with no chance of parole – a hardline approach that in 2015 prompted the American Supreme Court to rule such sentences as 'unconstitutional'. With the system now under review, Susanna Reid travels to the US and talks to young killers about their crimes and life in jail. Susanna also meets the families of victims, to ask how they feel about a possible change to American's approach to juvenile sentencing.

FRIDAY
Requiem, BBC1, 9pm

Aron Morgan lodges a complaint against Matilda for harassing Davey, and the police are unmoved by Matilda showing them what she believes is a clue to Carys' disappearance. Rose is pushed to breaking point as old wounds are reopened, Ed gets jittery as Trudy gives him the cold shoulder, and Graves becomes increasingly suspicious that he's hiding something. Sylvia reveals the peculiar ancestry of the Dean family, Hal identifies the source of the eerie music on the audiobooks, and Trudy remembers a crucial detail about the day Carys vanished. Psychological thriller, starring Lydia Wilson.



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WOLVERHAMPTON
MAGAZINE

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE CITY AND BEYOND

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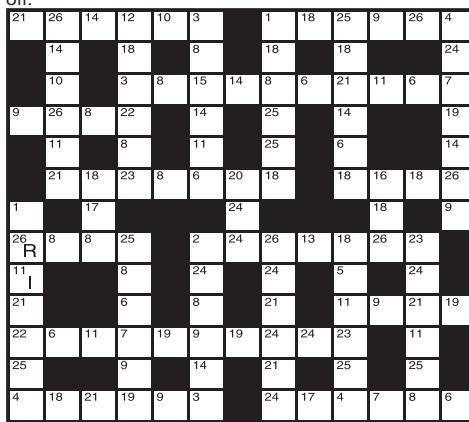
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Leah Edmunds - 01902 319619 | 07807 401172 | leah.edmunds@expressandstar.co.uk

BRAIN GYM

No.466

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	K	T	3	F	4	J	P	6	Y	7	B	8	Z	9	L	11	E	13	U	14	V
2	S	M	16	W	17	C	D	19	H	20	Q	21	G	23	N	25	I	27	O	28	R

Quiz

- What was the first Viscount Montgomery of Alamein's first name?
- Which post did David Owen hold in the Labour Government from 1977-1979?
- The best-known form of which game is called 8-ball?
- Which actor played Lord Bellamy in Upstairs, Downstairs?
- Which condition was also called the king's evil?
- Which comic actor's first talking film was Monsieur Verdoux?
- What, in 1959, became the City of London's first new theatre in 200 years?
- What is the name of the 2-day holiday at the start of the Jewish New Year?
- Who was Queen Elizabeth II's father?
- Which partnership wrote My Fair Lady and Paint Your Wagon?

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

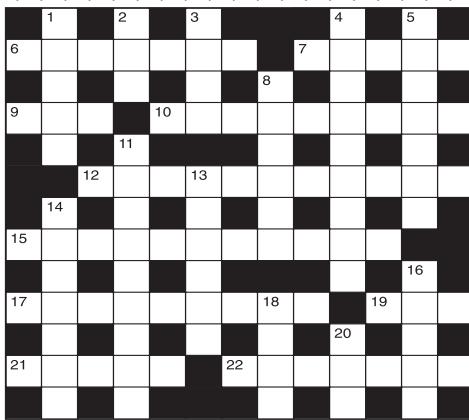
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- Keeps earth-bound for certain reason (7)
- Topless figure with a tan? (5)
- 9 & 19Ac. Vegetable to decay at the back of the vehicle (6)
- Decree one should be encircled by heavy artillery (9)
- One man went to mow! (11)
- Where a man keeps his capital and his secrets! (5,3,3)
- Could it show the force of a testament? (9)
- See 9 Across.
- What directors do for the farm animal (5)
- Uneasiness if seamail goes astray (7)
- Keeps earth-bound for certain reason (7)
- Topless figure with a tan? (5)
- German flower produces a certain fragrance, one hears! (4)
- I'm having a preference for being unbiased (9)
- See 13 Down.
- America is after the record for this event (6)
- Hospital attendants in whom discipline reposes (9)
- 13 & 5Dn. Pedagogue chose the carol, maybe (6,7)
- Yet an alteration about a football team causes concern (7)
- See 1 Down
- Angela Nolan could show impetuosity (4)
- 20 & 2Dn. Display to put down in the open air (6)

Down

- 1 & 16Dn. Retarding mechanism faulty, we hear - manage to escape (5,5)
- See 20 Down
- German flower produces a certain fragrance, one hears! (4)
- I'm having a preference for being unbiased (9)
- See 13 Down.
- America is after the record for this event (6)
- Hospital attendants in whom discipline reposes (9)
- 13 & 5Dn. Pedagogue chose the carol, maybe (6,7)
- Yet an alteration about a football team causes concern (7)
- See 1 Down
- Angela Nolan could show impetuosity (4)
- 20 & 2Dn. Display to put down in the open air (6)



Quick Clues:

Across

- Pagan (7)
- Faithful (5)
- Grow older (3)
- Indiscreet (9)
- Of inferior quality (6-5)
- Foot soldiers (11)
- Unceasing (9)
- Snoop (3)
- Sharp (5)
- Amaze (7)
- Simulate (5)
- Pig pen (3)
- Judge (4)
- Venetian boatman (9)
- Serious (7)
- Weekday (6)
- Lay waste (9)
- Trip (6)
- Bill (7)
- Salt water (5)
- Too (4)
- Decay (3)

Down

1. Simulate (5)
2. Pig pen (3)
3. Judge (4)
4. Venetian boatman (9)
5. Serious (7)
8. Weekday (6)
11. Lay waste (9)
13. Trip (6)
14. Bill (7)
16. Salt water (5)
21. Sharp (5)
22. Amaze (7)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

1	1	6	4	3	8	5	9	7
4	9	8	5	6	7	3	2	1
3	7	5	1	2	9	6	8	4
5	8	2	3	9	4	1	7	6
7	4	9	8	1	6	2	5	3
6	3	1	2	7	5	8	4	9
1	2	7	9	5	3	4	6	8
8	6	3	7	4	2	9	1	5
9	5	4	6	8	1	7	3	2

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Bare necessity; 8 Idolatry; 9 Emma; 10 Tender; 12 Letter; 14 Writer; 16 Strips; 18 Idle; 20 Transact; 22 Carried the day; Down: 1 Landseer; 2 Sealed; 3 Beat; 4 Recycles; 5 Ascent; 6 Stem; 11 Rarities; 13 Especial; 15 Theory; 17 Raspbed; 19 Dead; 21 Acts. QUICK - Across: 7 Reprehensible; 8 Composer; 9 Gone; 10 Frolic; 12 Preach; 14 Adjoin; 16 Decent; 18 Epic; 20 Inwardly; 22 Comprehensive. Down: 1 Devoured; 2 Propel; 3 Thus; 4 Intrepid; 5 Single; 6 Flan; 11 Consider; 13 Conclave; 15 Occupy; 17 Caress; 19 Poor; 21 Weep.

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

8628945
37651
87631

gives a game,
gives a second game,
gives a third game.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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Pub's cooking up a real storm

With the recent conditions making driving a risk-taking exercise of the highest degree, you want to find some good grub at the end of your quest to make that risk worthwhile.

Outside left you feeling like Jack Frost himself was running his prickly tongue all over your face, so having something hot and good-tasting in your belly was a terrific tonic.

It was a bonus, then, that the venue itself and staff working within the fairly recently opened Cookhouse & Pub offered the same warmth and friendliness as the food.

We had actually tried to go the night before. But, of course, it's a busy time of year and everyone would be out with friends or co-workers... and we hadn't booked. On top of this, they had lost the heaters in one half of the restaurant so were running on a smaller capacity. The staff were very apologetic saying sorry for the wait for tables and trying to fit in an alternative for another night if we didn't have time to wait.

BOOTHES

We took up the offer of a table the next evening and, based on our brief dealings with the staff so far, signs were good that this place had potential. So, 24 hours later it was take two. The restaurant was back up to full capacity and judging by the warmth swirling around the venue they had their heating back on in all corners.

Again we had service with a smile, one of the sizeable booths at the back of the venue giving a bit of privacy to our meal and we were seated near the kitchen to be enticed by the smells floating out from within.

Of note here is the attention given to those who choose to dine alone. Situated next to a Premier Inn on the A4123 Wolverhampton Road in Oldbury – one of the main routes between the M5 and Wolverhampton city



Garlic and chilli prawns, and Moroccan lamb

Modern art – inside the decor is stylish



centre – they must undoubtedly get a lot of business trippers with laptop in tow looking to get a bit of prep done over a good bit of food.

To cater for that, they have comfortable looking 'solo seats' with a large enough table to accommodate plate and 'puter with plugs and adjustable lamps to boot. We hadn't seen this idea before, except perhaps for in London, so the idea was rather novel to us.

First thing was to treat the taste buds with a starter. We were able to make our selections pretty quickly – one of us pregnant and with a constant hankering for

meat, while the other just overweight and with a greedy yearning for everything fattening.

I had the Moroccan-style lamb koftas, which sat on a plush bed of hummus and mint with fresh pomegranate seeds topped with Middle Eastern spices. The other half had the honey and mustard pork chipolatas with chopped parsley.

We had both picked our mains off the specials board. I had the special mixed grill, which differed from the regular option with the inclusion of tender, delicious ribs that peeled off the bone with ease.

As for the other half, she had the special lamb ragu which was sweetened nicely and came with a healthy side portion of garlic ciabatta.

This time I opted for the salted caramel, brownie and popcorn sundae but my girlfriend decided liquid was the way forward and had a C&P hot chocolate made with C&P mini chocolate beans, a giant marshmallow and whipped cream on top.

Too soon it was hometime. And a mental note was added to come back soon with family and friends.

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Car dealership is expanding services

Commercial feature

A major car dealership with a long and proud history of serving the local community is expanding its facilities and choice for customers.

T Wall are both Ford and Vauxhall main dealerships from their headquarters in High Street, Pensnett, Kingswinford, offering the full range of new cars from both manufacturers, as well as used cars, servicing, repairs and MoT testing, as well as operating the Motability scheme.

Expertise

T Wall is part of a family-run company with more than 60 years of expertise in the motor trade, and a reputation for personal, friendly service from well-trained, professional staff.

Now the company's familiar site has expanded, allowing significantly more space for customer parking, and to increase the choice of used cars available for customers to check out.

It is also, for the first time, offering a range of mobile homes for sale, a facility which includes the option for customers to have bespoke vehicles made by craftsmen to their own specification.

General manager Chris Avery said: "We have expanded our site, and we are using the extra space for additional customer parking, plus an additional used car display to give our customers a great range to choose from.

"We have around 100 extra cars for customers to come to view."

T Wall has also taken on a very experienced sales person to deal with motor home sales,



T Wall offers the full range of new cars from Ford and Vauxhall

a new venture for the company. There is a full range of motor homes on offer, from two to six berth models, and at prices range from £9,995 to £44,995.

As well as employing its own specialist, the company has also teamed up with a specialist company to enable it to undertake bespoke conversions for its customers.

"It is early days but we have already had some good enquiries and we think this will

be a winner," Mr Avery said. The first such bespoke conversion is well underway.

With its two main dealerships, plus its much-expanded used car selection and now motor homes, T Wall is offering an unparalleled choice for customers on one site.

But its services by no means end with just selling cars. Its expert technicians use the very latest diagnostic equipment and are trained to service all makes of cars and vans



The site at Pensnett, Kingswinford has been expanded

– and that now extends to motor homes, too.

The key to the company's success continues to be putting the customer first, through a first rate team, investing in the latest equipment and in continuing improvements to its customer facilities.

The company is also highly experienced in running Motability, the scheme which allows those with disabilities access to worry-free motoring – with those who qualify

being able to exchange their higher rate mobility allowance for a vehicle on a three-year contract which includes insurance, breakdown cover and servicing.

T Wall Ford offers a collection and delivery service, or there's a comfortable waiting room with free wifi and drinks for those who choose the service while you wait option.

The company also stocks quality parts and accessories, and carries out MoT testing.

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13/13	CHEVROLET SPARK 1.2LTZ 5DR, SILVER, 31,000 MILES	£4,495	15/15	MINI ONE 1.2 PEPPER PACK 3DR, RED, 16,000 MILES.....	£10,295
12/62	FIAT PANDA 0.9 TWINAIR LOUNGE 5DR, BLUE, 30,000 MILES	£4,897	14/14	MINI COUNTRYMAN 2.0 COOPER SD ALL4 5DR, WHITE, 43,000 MILES.....	£11,000
11/61	HYUNDAI I20 1.2 CLASSIC 5DR, RED, 31,000 MILES	£4,995	12/12	VOLKSWAGEN TIGUAN 2.0TDI TECH SE 5DR, GREY, 44,000 MILES.....	£11,295
12/62	FIAT PUNTO 1.2 EASY 3DR, WHITE, 11,000 MILES	£5,495	15/15	JEEP RENEGADE 1.6TDI LONGITUDE 5DR, BLACK, 21,000 MILES.....	£11,495
14/14	NISSAN MICRA 1.2 AGENTA 5DR, WHITE, 23,000 MILES	£5,820	12/12	MERCEDES C-CLASS C220 CDI 4DR, SPORT, AUTO, SILVER, 53,000 MILES.....	£11,998
12/62	HYUNDAI I20 1.2 ACTIVE 5DR, GREY, 41,000 MILES	£5,995	15/15	VOLKSWAGEN BEETLE 1.2TSI DESIGN 3DR, WHITE, 10,000 MILES.....	£12,495
15/65	HYUNDAI I10 1.2SE 5DR, WHITE, 26,000 MILES	£6,249	15/65	MAZDA 6 2.2D SE NAV, ESTATE, AUTO, SILVER, 36,000 MILES.....	£12,570
13/63	SKODA FABIA 1.2SE 5DR, BLUE, 17,000 MILES	£6,445	17/17	RENAULT CAPTUR 1.5DCI DYNAMIQUE 5DR, SILVER + BLACK, 9,000 MILES.....	£12,995
14/14	FIAT 500 1.2S 3DR, BLUE, 22,000 MILES	£6,673	14/14	AUDI A1 1.4TFSI 140 S LINE 3DR, WHITE, 36,000 MILES.....	£12,995
13/13	HYUNDAI IX20 1.4 ACTIVE 5DR, GREY, 42,000 MILES	£6,995	15/65	VOLKSWAGEN POLO 1.8TSI GTI 5DR, WHITE, 26,000 MILES.....	£13,995
09/09	MINI COOPER 1.6S 3DR, GREY, 43,000 MILES	£6,995	14/64	LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER EVOQUE 2.2 SD4 PURE 5DR, AUTO, RED, 29,000 MILES.....	£23,995
14/14	SUZUKI SPLASH 1.2SZ4 5DR, AUTO, BLUE, 6,000 MILES	£7,495	13/13	LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER EVOQUE 2.2 SD4 DYNAMIC, AUTO, ALL BLACK, 47,000 MILES.....	£27,995
15/15	SEAT IBIZA 1.4 TOCA 5DR, GREY, 21,000 MILES	£7,495			
17/17	SUZUKI SWIFT 1.2SZ2 3DR, SILVER, 3,000 MILES	£7,750			
15/15	VOLKSWAGEN UP 1.0 HIGH UP 5DR, BLACK, 23,000 MILES	£7,895	08/08	TOYOTA YARIS 1.3SR 5DR, GREY, 36,000 MILES.....	£4,495
14/14	VOLKSWAGEN POLO 1.2 MATCH 5DR, SILVER, 8,000 MILES	£7,991	13/13	SEAT IBIZA FR 1.6TDI, ESTATE, BLACK, 60,000 MILES.....	£6,695
10/10	VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 2.0TDI GT 5DR, AUTO, GREY, 58,000 MILES	£7,995	15/65	BMW 120D SPORT 2.0 5DR, BLUE, 25,000 MILES.....	£12,995
15/15	NISSAN NOTE 1.2 ACENTA 5DR, GREY, 17,000 MILES	£8,495			
15/65	DACIA SANDERO STEPWAY 1.5DCI LAUREATE 5DR, WHITE, 16,000 MILES	£8,695			
14/64	SKODA OCTAVIA 1.6TDI SE BUSINESS, ESTATE, RED, 49,000 MILES	£8,995	15/65		

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15/65	BMW 120D SPORT 2.0 5DR, BLUE, 25,000 MILES.....	£12,995

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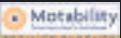
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Celebrating 100,000 Insignia orders

Fresh from its success at the Company Car Today CCT100 awards, where it was voted Best Upper Medium car and number two overall in the CCT100 models to meet every fleet need, the Insignia is available in Grand Sport and Sports Tourer body styles. Vauxhall's flagship range also includes a rugged Country Tourer and a forthcoming GSi performance model that will arrive in Vauxhall showrooms in the spring.

The new Insignia range is powered by a portfolio of turbocharged, four-cylinder, diesel and petrol engines from 1.5 to 2.0-litre, combined with a choice of six-speed manual or six and eight-speed automatic transmissions.

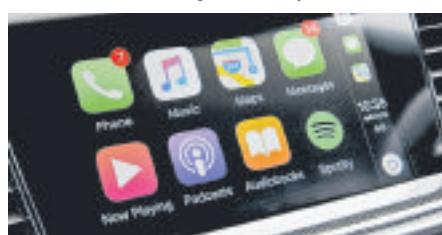
The most powerful diesel and petrol engines are also offered with innovative torque vectoring all-wheel drive.

Buyers not only benefit from numerous state-of-the-art technologies such as adaptive cruise control (which automatically adjusts the speed to follow the vehicle in front according to the selected following distance), IntelliLux LED matrix headlights (which automatically adapt to every traffic situation) and ergonomic seats certified by the back-specialists from AGR. The new Insignia also offers moderate cost of ownership compared with its competitors in the high-volume and premium segments.

Nine in ten of the new Insignia cars ordered so far come with the optional Navi 900 IntelliLink top-of-the-range infotainment system. The integrated navigation system features an eight-inch capacitive colour touchscreen. Navi 900 IntelliLink is compatible with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, bringing the world of smartphones into



The Insignia Grand Sport



Bringing smartphones into the car

the car. If OnStar is on board, smartphones can also connect to the car's powerful 4G/LTE Wi-Fi Hotspot[1] – which enables online audio streaming.

The popularity of the new Insignia in the marketplace is matched by its success in the international media. The new flagship has won prestigious awards such as Carbuyer's Best Large Family 2018, Best Family Car at the 2017 Scottish Car of the Year Awards and

Top Crossover Estate at the 4x4 Magazine Awards. Others top honours include the "Golden Steering Wheel" 2017 in Poland (Auto Świat) and Slovenia (Auto Bild) as well as "Best Car 2017" (Fleet Cars & Vans, Fleet Auto Premium) in Poland and "Fleet News of the Year" (FLEET Magazine) in the Czech Republic.

The new Insignia has also proved its mettle against tough competition in comparison



The Insignia is available in Grand Sport and Sports Tourer body styles plus a Country Tourer and GSi performance model

tests carried out by automotive magazines across Europe. To date, the Insignia has won 23 of 40 comparison tests: four wins in Germany (Autostrassenverkehr July 26 and September 20, Auto Zeitung July 26, Auto Bild August 4); three wins in the Netherlands (AutoWeek 29/17 and online July 21, AutoVisie July 6) and the Czech Republic (auto.cz September 29, AutoTIP October 2, auto motor und sport October 17); two in Portugal (Auto

Hoje August 24, Auto Foco December 21), Belgium (Le Moniteur Automobile November 27, AutoWereld December 1), Poland (Auto Świat July 10 and July 17), Sweden (Teknikens Värld August 27, Vi Bilägare January 2018), and the United Kingdom (What Car? August 4, Auto Express January 17, 2018); and one each in France (caradisiac.com), Slovakia (auto motor und sport October 10) and Norway (Motor November 4).

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Simply super Suzuki Swift a top dog

By Sharon Walters

What a delight, a car that is a world player but with a model specifically designed for British and European roads.

Any how you can appreciate that when driving about in Suzuki's simply super Swift. In order to suit the needs of European customers, Suzuki knew that simply designing and developing the new Swift in Japan would not be sufficient. So it turned to the roads of Europe, where teams of local evaluation drivers helped to hone the new car.

Testing of the chassis, which is the centrepiece of the Swift's evolution, started in January 2016 in the United Kingdom and Germany. Covering a total of more than 6,000 miles, the teams tested as many as 90 different suspension prototypes in an effort to meet the need for optimum steering feel together with providing supple and agile suspension for British roads.

The latest model arrived on our shores last June 12 years after it first docked. An initial drive back then along winding roads in the Peak District impressed but how would it cope with my country commute to and from the office and lengthy trips on the motorway?

Simply super! Sorry to sound so twee, but it was.

This supermini made a big impact during its earlier incarnations and the latest seems to be doing even better. There is more room for people and their luggage and it is faster off the mark. At the same time it is a little more refined and more powerful while also being more economic. It is dynamic and comfortable as well, what more could you ask for?

In a little more detail looks-wise it has a more



There's a good quality interior finish
impressive grille, LED daytime running lights and stronger haunches which give it more prominence on the road.

The Swift's extra space comes courtesy of a longer wheelbase which permitted the engineers to give more space in the cabin, especially for those in the back, and a bigger boot of 265 litres – a very good space for a car of this size which can easily cope with luggage for a holiday.

It's a dynamic drive with its lower and wider stance and feels very secure when tackling tight corners. It is also comfortable and enjoyed that motorway cruise much more than I expected a car of the Swift's size to do, as did I the driver.

Swift is available as a five-door model in SZ3, SZ-T and SZ5 grades. Standard equipment for all models in the range is comprehensive and the SZ3 model with 1.2-litre Dualjet engine and manual transmission will include six airbags, air conditioning, leather steering wheel, DAB radio with Bluetooth and four speakers, rear



The Suzuki Swift starts at just under £12,000 and goes up to £16,849

privacy glass, LED daytime running lights, 15-inch wheels, body coloured door mirrors and front electric windows.

A 90hp 1.2-litre four cylinder Dualjet engine offers CO2 emissions of 98g/km and 65.7mpg for the manual transmission model.

And the 111PS 1.0-litre three cylinder Boosterjet turbo engine offers CO2 emissions of 104g/km and 61.4mpg for manual transmission model. This Boosterjet engine might appear small but it is remarkable with that power and torque more usually found in a diesel engine than a small petrol and fuel

economy. Going through the gears is quick and easy and in top gear is very refined giving quite remarkable fuel use on that motorway marathon I undertook.

The Boosterjet is also available with Suzuki's SHVS mild hybrid system offering CO2 emissions of 97g/km and Suzuki's excellent ALLGRIP 'AUTO' 4WD system. Four-wheel drive system is a well proven and simple fully automatic and permanent four-wheel drive layout which transfers additional torque to the rear wheels when needed.

Inside, for a car so modestly priced, there is a decent finish and quality of trim (it's certainly not too plastic) and interior features include a centre console turned five degrees towards the driver, front seats with optimised shape and spring position with heightened side bolsters.

The facia is neat and tidy with sporty white accents and satin chrome with a basic black theme. The instrument cluster offers either colour or monochrome LCD in the centre with a coolant temperature and fuel gauge incorporated within the two main gauges. And all controls are easy to reach and operate.



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Models shown: Ignis 1.2 Adventure petrol manual including metallic paint (£465) available at £14,464 on the road. Swift 1.0 Boosterjet HYBRID SZ5 petrol manual including optional accessory pack (£479) and metallic paint (£485) available at £16,463 on the road. Vitara 1.6 Kuro petrol manual including metallic paint (£500) available at £19,249 on the road. Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (L/100km): Ignis range: Urban from 51.3 (5.5) to 57.6 (4.9), Extra Urban from 64.2 (4.4) to 70.6 (4.0). Combined from 60.1 (4.7) to 65.7 (4.3). Official CO₂ emissions from 106g/km to 97g/km. Swift range: Urban from 44.1 (6.4) to 58.8 (4.8), Extra Urban from 65.7 (4.3) to 76.3 (3.7). Combined from 56.5 (5.0) to 65.7 (4.3). Official CO₂ emissions from 114g/km to 97g/km. Vitara range: Urban from 42.1 (6.7) to 61.4 (4.6), Extra Urban from 55.4 (5.1) to 76.3 (3.7). Combined from 49.5 (5.7) to 70.6 (4.0). Official CO₂ emissions from 131g/km to 106g/km, from 114g/km to 97g/km. Fuel consumption figures are based on an EU test for comparative purposes only and may not reflect real driving results. *Excludes Suzuki Jimny. Hire Purchase product available on 0% APR over 12-42 months. Personal Contract Purchase product available on 0% APR over 25-43 months. Offer is available from participating Authorised Suzuki Dealers only. Offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer unless otherwise stated. Credit is available to UK residents aged 18 years or over, subject to status, from Suzuki Finance, a trading style of Suzuki Financial Services Ltd, St. William House, Tresillian Terrace, Cardiff CF10 5BH. This offer is subject to availability and Suzuki Financial Services Ltd reserves the right to withdraw or amend this offer without notice or prior warning. Terms and Conditions apply. Suzuki Financial Services Ltd, part of Lloyds Banking Group. Offer correct at the time of going to print.

Halesowen Motor House

Dudley Road, Halesowen, West Midlands, B63 3NH, 0121 503 0001
cars.suzuki.co.uk/dealers/halesowen-motor-house

Excessive Bentayga can be practical

By Ian Donaldson

Here's a car that combines pointless excess and surprising practicality better than almost anything else on the road.

But you can do something about the excess before you buy and the practicality is still there for the taking for the length of your ownership.

First, the excess. After choosing the diesel engined version of Bentley's ship-sized and high selling Bentayga SUV you'll be faced with an options' list as long as a well tailored arm.

One of the boxes you can tick adds £2,995 to the bottom line for a dash mounted Breitling clock with dark mother of pearl face and – not joking here – ringed with eight small diamonds. So it's both naff and impossible to read at the same time.

So, with nearly three grand back in your pocket, we proceed to the practicality part of the Bentayga equation.

Choose diesel as fuel and you save £26,900 over the cost of the full fat 12-cylinder petrol model, losing only modestly in the performance stakes. You may find that 168mph and zero to 62mph in 4.8 seconds is sufficient after all.

It certainly feels plenty fast enough, if not as bonkers quick as the petrol W12. Quite near the just announced V8 petrol Bentayga, though, and a minuscule £400 cheaper.

Your respect for the performance will then turn to astonishment when you glance the fuel consumption readout – over 500 miles the Bentayga diesel on test managed 31.6mpg, and touched 40mpg-plus on a gentle motorway run.

For such a huge and heavy car that's close to miraculous and made the 17.6mpg from the



If you opt for a Breitling clock, add on £2,995 to the cost



Despite its size, there's not much legroom in the rear

W12 driven some months earlier seem utterly dippy. It means an easy 500 miles per 18 gallon tankful and much less messing about at the pumps for the Bentley's time pressed owner. And more time to enjoy driving a car that does a fine job of defying physics by making its 2.5 tonnes feel like a lighter vehicle when corners arrive – although never like a smaller one.



This is a very big machine, casting shadows over everything else in the car park

This is a very big machine, casting shadows over almost anything else in the car park and wide enough to make city driving an exercise in width judgement as the grocery deliveries van hurls towards you at must-make-the-slot speed.

In its element (wide, open road) the Bentayga is a near perfect way to transport four lucky people as far as they'd like to go,

cocooned in leather lined luxury in a cockpit that makes you feel special every time the doors pull themselves closed the last few millimetres, thus saving you the bother of slamming them shut.

Despite its gargantuan bulk the Bentayga is merely very adequately spacious in the rear – not leg-stretchingly roomy – and the boot, while regularly shaped is modestly sized

against something like ... a Skoda Superb. Bentley ownership is higher on the feel good factor and the Bentayga does not disappoint, especially with a list of optional extras that extends from TV screens in the rear (£965) to ventilated front seats with massage function (£2,805).

And that clock, if you must.
Price: £135,800

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Halesowen 0121 503 0001

Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Grandland X Sport Nav 1.2i (130PS) Turbo Start/Stop: Urban: 47.1 (6.0), Extra Urban: 62.8 (4.5), Combined 43.5 (6.5). CO₂ emissions: 149g/km.[#]

All of the following retailers are acting as a credit broker and not a lender: Worcester Carsales Limited trading as Dudley Motor Company, Worcester Carsales Limited trading as T Wall Garages, Worcester Carsales Limited trading as Stourbridge Motor House, Worcester Carsales Limited trading as Halesowen Motor House. We will introduce you to a limited number of lenders. Commission may be received.

Model shown Grandland X Sport Nav 1.2i (130PS). Offer subject to availability, on selected models at participating Retailers only. Conditional Sale. Finance subject to status. Ts&Cs apply. Applicants must be 18+. Finance by Vauxhall Finance, CF15 7YT. 24-60 month term. Offer applies to private individuals. Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 vehicles (purchase only excluding B2B supported vehicles). All other customers are excluded. Offer available on orders or registrations between 19 December 2017 and 02 April 2018. #Fuel consumption information is official government environmental data, tested in accordance with the relevant EU directive. Official EU regulated test data is provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors. Vauxhall Motors Limited reserves the right to change, amend or withdraw this offer at any point in time. Correct at time of going to press.

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3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

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5 Business & Farming

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6 Property

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8
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 5dr hatchback, white, one very careful owner. £6,000 or very nearest offer Strictly genuine callers only please.

07729 953812
 07729 953812
 MAZDA MX5 1.8S
 2001 roadster, MoT, average mileage, racing bronze, good service record, mohair hood, alloys, EW, pioneer dab, chrome roll bars, £1,750.
 07771 428793.

Cars Over £1500

MINI COOPER
 2005, 63,600 Miles, silver, part Leather Interior, panoramic electric roof mot November 18, 6 disc cd, £1,700 o.n.o.
 01902 657460

ECONOMICAL

RENAULT MEGANE MK 3
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 New shape, 59 plate, 100,000 miles. Very good condition. 10 months MoT. £30 car tax per year. £2,100 o.n.o.
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 2005, 5dr hatchback. 2 lady owners from new. full MoT, recently serviced. Service history. Immaculate condition.

£1,850.
 07467 562680.

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FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC
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 07791 113080

LOW MILEAGE

MAZDA MX5 1.8S
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BARGAIN

FORD KA
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4X4

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 FSH.

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£1,200 o.n.o.
 01902 676865.

IMMACULATE

TOYOTA AVENIS T3X
 2003, 146,000 miles, MoT to April, EW, EM, PAS, onboard computer, dual climate control, alloy wheels, metallic gold, fsh but no record.

Immaculate condition.
 £650
 07983 329053.

BARGAIN

VAUXHALL TIGRA 1.4
 CONVERTIBLE

Silver, 09 plate, 2dr, 10 months MoT, average mileage, excellent condition.

£950 o.n.o.
 07938 598881.

LOOK

VAUXHALL VECTRA 2.0T
 SRI 2006

Silver, 75k, 18ins alloys, 12 months MoT, very good condition.

£1,495.
 01562 631640.

Cars Under £1500**BARGAIN**

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£1450 o.n.o.

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Brendon Batson reads out his tribute



A picture of Cyrille, a Baggies shirt and his trademark cap



One-time Villa forward Dwight Yorke



Ex-boss at Albion and Villa Ron Atkinson



Tears from fans at the memorial service



Former Villa striker Dion Dublin



Beverley Knight performs during the memorial service for Cyrille Regis

Phenomenal footballer – and an even better man

CYRILLE REGIS 1958-2018

By David Cosgrove

"He didn't go out of his way to fight any crusades but he changed football by being what he was, a role model to everybody."

STARS paid tribute to footballing 'pioneer' Cyrille Regis at an emotional service, describing him as 'a superstar of the day, but a man of the people'.

At the service at The Hawthorns dedicated to his remarkable life, it was not just Cyrille's prowess on the pitch that was hailed. His humility and grace as a man was also celebrated.

Regis was described by his former boss Ron Atkinson as 'a phenomenal footballer and an even better bloke'. Former Liverpool and England star John Barnes called Cyrille 'an ambassador for humanity'.

And that praise for the former Albion, Wolves, Villa and Coventry forward's character was a recurring theme from all those who took the time to share memories of him. Among those at the service were Brighton boss Chris Hughton, Regis's nephew Jason Roberts, and ex-England stars Barnes, Carlton Palmer and Viv Anderson.

Albion fan and broadcaster Adrian Chiles, club legend 'Super' Bob Taylor and former Baggies and Wolves striker Don Goodman all attended. Soul star Beverley Knight performed during the service, while Chris Kamara, Les Ferdinand and Dwight Yorke also turned up.

Humility

Barnes heaped praise on Cyrille's personality, saying it even outshone his skills as a striker.

He said: "Cyrille was a fantastic footballer but the greatest quality a human being can have in my opinion is humility – and for someone who was such a great person, he had humility in abundance.

"As much as he was a great footballer, a trailblazer and a pioneer, his greatest quality was his humility. He was an ambassador for humanity. The way he was as a person far superseded what he was as a footballer – and he was a great footballer."

Big Ron, who managed Regis at Albion and briefly at Villa, said: "From a football point of view, Cyrille would always be the number nine in my best ever team. And as a person he was a great bloke. He was a phenomenal footballer and an even better bloke."

"He didn't go out of his way to fight any crusades but he changed football by being what he was, a role model to everybody. He conducted himself the right way both on and off the field."

"Anybody you speak to will tell you that he was an ambassador on the football pitch and an ambassador off it."

Don Goodman, who – like Regis – represented both Albion and Wolves, added: "Quite simply he was a boyhood hero of mine."

"As I got to know Cyrille through my links with West Bromwich Albion, I came to know what a great

man he was. Not just because he stood up in the face of racism but because he was an all-around good fellow. This man was a superstar of the day, but he was a man of the people. He always had time for people. That is testament to the man – not the footballer."

In a moving eulogy, his nephew Jason Roberts, who also wore the Albion colours, said: "Carrying his coffin with my cousins, uncle and family members, it was the first time it has been hard to be Cyrille Regis's nephew."

"People always wanted to spend time with him, to spend time around his influence. I was so fortunate to have that as a family member."

"The way he interacted with me or my family wasn't necessarily unique. Everybody was inspired by him, that's why I went on to play football."

"It's why my uncle David went on to have a football career, why I wanted to have a career."

"As an individual and a family we don't own the legacy of Cyrille Regis, everybody here does, everybody who's been touched by him, everybody who's been motivated to stay here in the cold and listen to his legacy."

Struggled

"He was a special man and his legacy must live on and through our memories of him."

Dave Regis, Cyrille's younger brother, said: "Like all of us, Cyrille had his ups and downs in life. There was a time after Laurie Cunningham died that he struggled to come to terms with it. He found life difficult, this is when he turned to God seeking some comfort in his life."

"When C met Julia he was back to the brother we knew. He was beaming when he introduced her, it was obvious that she made him happy. His faith brought him peace, he never forced it on anyone."

"We will miss his wisdom, his voice and his life. We will miss you bro, all day long."

Said John Sillett, Coventry City's FA Cup-winning manager: "I had the greatest job in football, managing a man called Cyrille Regis."

"An electric gifted character, he was a bonder of men. After the Cup final he said 'Sill you gave me the proudest day of my life in football' and that was an honour for me."

"The team respected him, they're all here today. They all know what a great man, what a man you could always talk to."

Injured Gavin sees title fight put back

FRANKIE Gavin's IBO Welterweight World title fight with Bethuel Ushona has been pushed back a month after the Birmingham fighter suffered an ankle injury in training. The February 23 fight against the Namibian for the vacant title, at the Genting Arena in Birmingham, has been rescheduled to March 24.

Tickets will be honoured from the original date and the undercard – which features the likes of Josh Stokes and includes two other IBO title fights – is expected to be relatively unaffected.

Gavin's trainer Dean Edwards admitted the injury – sustained during a training camp in Ireland – had been a setback but insisted it was merely a minor one and that Frankie would be fighting fit for the new date. He said: "Frankie has sprained the ligaments in his left ankle and been advised by medics to cease training for seven to ten days. But it's a minor problem."

Gavin said: "I'm gutted but I'll be back. There is no way I'm letting myself or anyone else down."

Selby on cue for an exhibition maximum

WORLD snooker champ Mark Selby racked up a 147 break when he checked in at Stourbridge Snooker Club. The world number one played 10 frames against local players and two raffle winners and knocked in a further three century breaks, including a 132 to kick off the evening.

Local snooker league stalwart Kevin Franklin, who helped organise the event, almost stole the headlines in the final frame of the evening when he lost on the black against the cueman dubbed 'The Jester from Leicester'.

But while his potting skills drew plenty of plaudits, it was his all-round demeanour that really impressed Franklin. "Mark was a class act, not just on the table but off it as well," added Franklin. "I have been to a lot of these exhibition nights and organised a fair few, but this was the best one by far."

"He had time for everyone and was still there around midnight signing autographs and having pictures taken. Initially he had been due to play eight frames but when he turned up he said he would do a bit of a question and answer session and play a couple of extra frames if we wanted."

Fundraising game for club mascot's family

MASCOTS will do battle at Halesowen Town FC for a match in memory of Albion mascot Richard Eades.

Richard, who dressed as Albi Bird, died of a heart attack on Boxing Day, aged 42. Fellow mascot and friend Dave Challenor, who donned the Baggie Bird costume, has organised the match. The mascots' clash will provide the curtain-raiser for match between a West Brom All-Stars team led by former midfielder Andy Johnson and Boing FC, the Albion supporters' team father-of-two Eades used to play for.

Dave is confident mascots from Wolves, Walsall, Birmingham City, Manchester City, Sheffield United, Sheffield Wednesday, Bradford City, Yeovil Town, Hartlepool, and Exeter City will all join in the match.

Hundreds of people have already registered an interest in coming along on April 29, part of a whole day devoted to fundraising for the Eades family. It starts at 11am. It will start with a nine-a-side tournament featuring teams from all aspects of Richard's life.

Sport

SPORTS DESK 01902 319531

Chess club have sights on promotion

STOURBRIDGE chess club's Wolverhampton division 2 'A' team continued their march towards promotion when they hosted a Rushall team who could have provided a serious test.

They arrived with two reserves to give Stourbridge an advantage on the bottom two boards along with the advantage they had with their inform top two boards.

First to finish was Julie Wilson who had to accept a draw in a blocked position with a bad bishop. Next came a surprising draw for Nic Fallonfield to make the match a little tighter.

On board 3 Dave Scriven forced his opponent to resign, while Sam Bradley on board six shook hands on a draw.

A win for Zibby Koncki ensured Stourbridge won the match and Paul Sharratt resigned. It means Stourbridge are top of the division, having won five and drawn one of six games.

A slightly depleted Birmingham division 4 team travelled to Lichfield. However, Stourbridge still had a slight advantage on paper.

After the opening hour of play, the six board match looked evenly balanced, with Stourbridge better on two boards and Lichfield better on two. Colin Woodall and Martin Berridge both then agreed draws.

On board 6, captain Steve Alcock set a trap which his opponent fell for and won the exchange. Then two more results came in – a win for Richard Wilkinson and a loss on board two. On board one, John Foxall forced a resignation and Stourbridge won 4-2. They are on course for an upper mid-table finish.

To join Stourbridge chess club, contact Dave Scriven on 01384 423642 or visit www.stourbridgechess.f9.co.uk

Heathens eight-race fixture list compiled

CRADLEY Heathens have revealed their 2018 fixture list – with just eight dates in the diary.

Heathens will race only in the National Trophy, hosting home fixtures at Monmore Green with a 7.30pm start.

Director Nigel Pearson said: "Whilst there's a lot of excitement about the team we have assembled, the reality of the situation strikes when you see the fixture list and only eight matches."

"The only way we could return to full league racing is by finally securing a site of our own, or some financial support can be given to ensure we don't lose money by staging meetings at Birmingham."

"That said, we have a super team with some exciting young talent and I'm really looking forward to seeing them in Heathens colours."

Fixtures:
Apr 27: Coventry (a)
May 7: Stoke (H)
May 12: Stoke (a)
May 21: Coventry (H)
May 26: Coventry (a)
Jun 18: Buxton (H)
Jul 16: Birmingham (H)
August 1: Birmingham (a)



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What a man! Tributes for legend big Cyrille continue

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James in swing for adding to haul



James Ilsley with his golfing haul

A RISING star at Dudley Golf Club has added to his growing haul of silverware.

James Ilsley, aged 12, from Sedgley, continues to make great strides on the fairways and has been crowned the club's player of the year for the fourth year in a row.

James, who plays county golf for Worcestershire under-14s, is dominating the local junior scene, also picking up the best gross score and

order of merit for the fourth year in a row. In addition to scooping the end of year accolade, James dominated in club events around the picturesque Turner's Hill course, winning eight of the 10 tournaments he entered.

James' mother Samantha Russell, who runs the club's junior section, said: "He's been getting better every year. I'm very proud."

"We're a growing side at Dudley but when James is on form, no one

can touch him, he's just that good." After being introduced to golf at seven by his father, James' love for the game blossomed after having lessons with ex-Walker Cup player Darren Prosser. The youngster has recently joined The Belfry.

Samantha added: "It's down to the parents to put the effort and time in to take their kids anywhere they need to go to play. We pride ourselves on that and it's really benefited James."

Deduction puts Yeltz on bottom

HALESOWEN TOWN have been deducted four points for fielding an ineligible player, dumping them to the bottom of the Evo-Stik Northern Premier Division.

The Yeltz admitted fielding Kalern Thomas for three games in September and October while he was still registered with Solihull Moors. The club requested a personal hearing with the Evo-Stik League, and received £600 fine.

The four points won from involving Thomas played have now been deducted.

A club statement said the league met again on January 31 to discuss how the case breaches their rules and the club were further charged with fielding an ineligible player, resulting in the loss of the points and another £100 fine. Halesowen are considering an appeal.

On the field, Halesowen's woes continued, shipping five goals in the second half to slump to defeat at Whitby.

Captain Steve Snaith and Junior Mondal scored two each and James Fairley one. Yeltz had Marcus Posche sent off.

Stourbridge reached the Birmingham Senior Cup semi-finals on Monday with a 3-2 victory at Coleshill Town, debutant Edilson Antonio netting an 85th-minute winner after earlier goals from Leon Broadhurst and Connor Gater.

Glassboys picked up a share of the spoils against third-placed Shaw Lane in the Evo-Stik Premier on Saturday.

Luke Benbow's cross from the byeline deceived goalkeeper Eddie Wilczynski to equalise after Alex Byrne had given Shaw Lane a third minute lead.

Rivals meet for place in Hunt Cup quarters

DUDLEY Town and Tipton Town meet next Wednesday for a place in the quarter-finals of the JW Hunt Cup.

Opponents for the winners will be either Alvechurch, Heath Hayes or Wolverhampton Casuals. The first two have yet to play their first round tie, which has been postponed three times.

Already in the quarter-finals are Walsall Wood and Paget Rangers who play for a semi-final place on Tuesday. Paget ended Tividale's hopes with a 1-0 win in the second round.

A second semi-finalist will be known after Sporting Khalsa play Atherstone Town on February 27.



Hat-trick hero Sam Pailor carries the ball as Stourbridge look to get forward at Huddersfield

Wood rack up division's highest total

COOMBS Wood scored the highest total of the WCB Indoor League – North Division, scoring 132-3 against Quatt in week four.

They bowled out Quatt for 105 to win by 27 runs.

Coombs Wood lost a wicket in the first over, but Mike Langford (24) joined Carl Whyte (25no) and quickly raised the scoring rate. After Whyte's re-

tirement, the batsmen continued to go after the bowling.

In reply, Quatt openers Rob Wheldon (26) and captain Alex Biddle (39) went chasing runs. But they were not backed up by the others, and with three wickets lost in the 10th over the target was out of reach.

In the other game, Stourbridge (110-3) beat Chaddesley

Corbett (102-5) by eight runs.

After Stourbridge lost opener Stu Ludlam in the first over, Matt Bradley (30no) and captain Rashid (29no) started to repair the damage and the remaining batsmen all chipped in.

For Chaddesley Corbett the wheels came off in the middle overs when they lost three quick wickets, losing momentum.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford.

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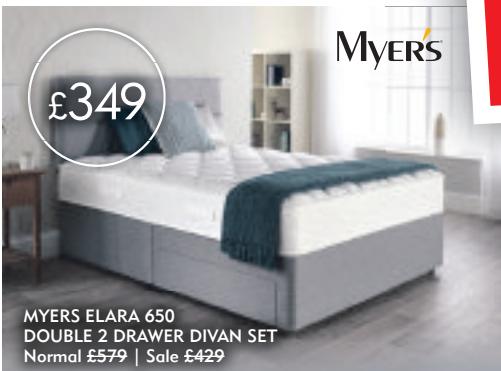
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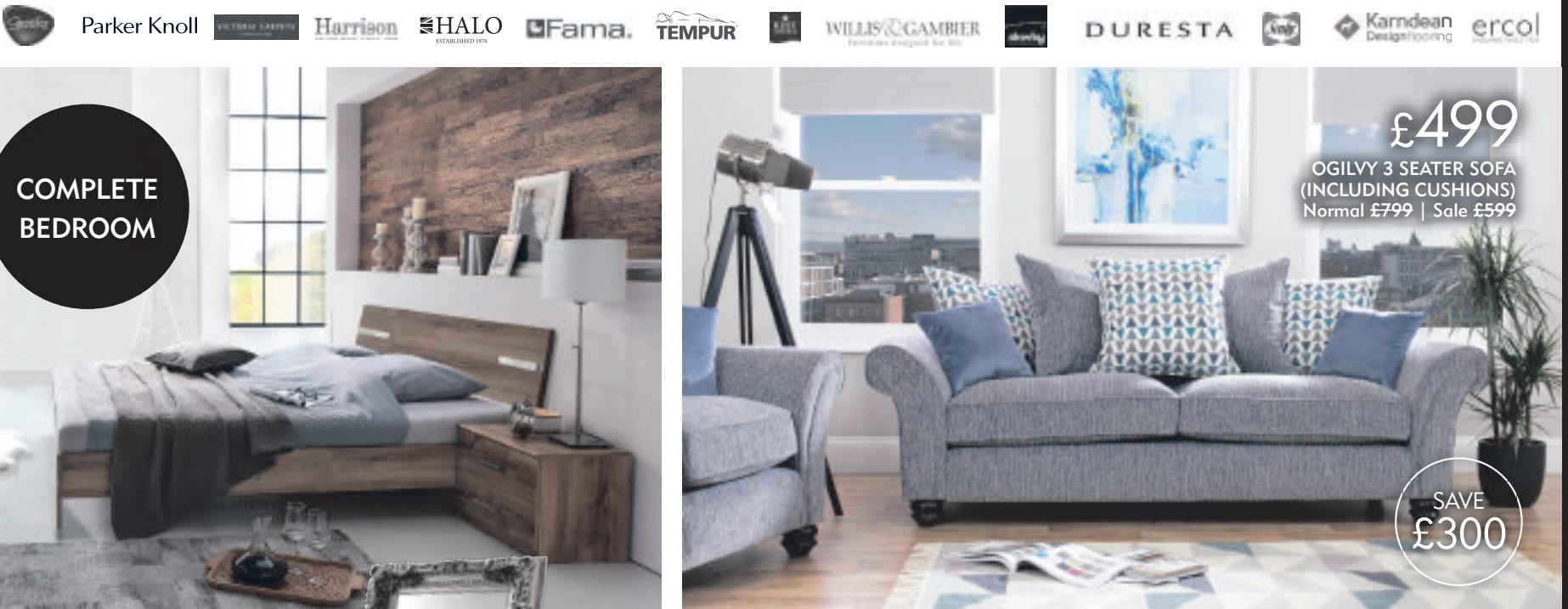
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